

Transport Workers' Union Queensland



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE SECRETARY PETER BIAGINI

BRISBANE GARBO CONTRACT “WORSE THAN WORKCHOICES”

7 OCTOBER: *Brisbane City Council garbos have called for an **urgent meeting with Lord Mayor Graham Quirk** in light of waste contractor Sita announcing a **week-long lock-out**, from next Tuesday, of drivers who **refused to sign an agreement encouraging dangerous driving.***

MAIN POINTS: ▶ Drivers rejected a so-called “productivity” clause that provides an inducement to break several road and workplace laws. ▶ SITA wants to create an underclass workforce of low-paid casuals by slashing pay up to **\$304 a week**, further reducing public and workplace safety. ▶ Staff offering to make up bin runs after Tuesday stoppage were informed they would be locked out. ▶ Garbos seek urgent meeting with Lord Mayor Graham Quirk. Brisbane City Council must take action against this rogue contractor, and ensure procurement supplies law-abiding, ethical contracts.

“**This is worse than WorkChoices,**” TWU Secretary Peter Biagini said. “Drivers were told by the manager, **‘if you don’t sign this document, you won’t be allowed back into work.’**”

“And that document provides **an incentive to speed, to drive outside rostered hours, and to skip mandatory rest breaks.**”

“**That document seeks to strip casuals of \$304 a week.** If successful, this worse-than-WorkChoices agenda will lead to a fully casualised workforce on minimal pay, which means high turnover, poor training — and another ratcheting up of danger for the people of Brisbane, and their loyal drivers.

“The mentality of SITA would be incredible if it weren’t there in black and white: screwing Brisbane ratepayers and hard-working, safety-conscious drivers with **a business model that actively encourages dangerous driving.**”

“Council must act now to rein in the vicious excesses of this rogue contractor. Drivers have asked the Lord Mayor for an urgent meeting on Tuesday morning to relay their concerns and discuss what must be done to keep the industry safe.

“**The council need to spell out exactly how long it intends to allow SITA to ride roughshod over ratepayers, employees and the City of Brisbane’s waste contract.**”

ENDS

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