

RTBU EXPRESS

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Letter from Secretary

FIRST METRO, NOW V/LINE



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

A number of comrades from across the Union have raised questions about the V/Line Operations Enterprise

Agreement (EA). This EA expired last year on 30 June, and no agreement has been made.

An offer was put to delegates from V/Line last week. This offer was unanimously rejected by the delegates and consequently a decision to lodge for Protected Industrial Action (PIA) in V/Line Operations was made.

These negotiations have been going on for over a year. It is unacceptable that a deal has still not been reached. The RTBU appreciates that V/Line have had a number of issues this

year, but it should not be the members who bear the brunt.

Over the last 12 months of negotiations we have had to deal with three CEOs. Currently we are dealing with the *acting, acting CEO*.

Members are fed up with feeling like they are being taken for a ride. Our position is very clear. This is about restoring fairness to several basic working conditions that are critical to shift workers.

Industrial action is never a decision that is made lightly but members have been agitated by the company's inaction for too long.

While we are now closer to reaching an agreement than when negotiations commenced last year, we have not seen movement by V/Line on several claims tabled by the RTBU.

Delegates have endorsed the RTBU to lodge for a protected industrial action ballot order (PABO) with the Fair Work Commission, which happened last week. Now we call on members of the RTBU to be more united than ever and vote YES in the campaign to take action.

Members should know that we have met with the state government and have called on them to involve Industrial Relations Victoria to assist with this drawn out process.

More information regarding what will be involved will follow shortly. In the meantime the RTBU will continue to negotiate in good faith in the hope of being able to reach an agreement without needing to take PIA.

I call on members from all Division's to get behind our Brothers & Sisters in V/Line. An industry standard was set last year when we signed off on the Metro Operations EA, it is paramount that we deliver the same outcome for members in V/Line while retaining hard won conditions.

Members will be kept up to date as progress is made. If you have any further questions, please contact your relevant division.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary



METRO STATIONS



JOE MAISANO
RTBU Delegate

Metro Station Delegates bi-monthly meetings have now almost completed for the first round of

2016. The meetings give the Delegates a voice on any issues, concerns or frustrations that require resolution. Metro management also attend the meetings which gives management the opportunity to know what is happening in the area and not sweep problems under the carpet. Many common issues have been raised and now are on the way to being resolved. There has been a strong interest by Station Delegates to attend the meetings and I

appreciate Delegates who finish a late shift and then turn up the next morning to attend the Stations Delegates Meeting in their own time. Thank you – you are the union and as a delegate you are best placed to represent your members.

The meetings are Chaired by myself and are all minuted. I then prepare the meeting minutes and distribute them to Station Delegates for each Work Group. Station Delegates circulate meeting minutes via email, fax and/or correspondence to the Members. Minutes are place on Union Notice Boards/Boards at locations for that Work Group. Any Delegates that require a Notice Board, please let me know as this can be arranged if your area does not have one.

Other developments in Station Land is that the RTBU has been conducting Delegate elections in the Central Area with new elected Delegates from various positions and grades.

A new approach and one I endorse is the WOMEN'S ADVOCATES, supporting this role is great for our industry to grow and develop. We have commenced nomination for Women's Advocates on the Werribee/Williamstown Lines and the response has been great.

I look forward to seeing you shortly around the traps.

V/LINE INFRASTRUCTURE EA UPDATE



BRYAN EVANS
Organiser

In a positive step towards the completion of the V/Line Infrastructure negotiations the "MPM

relief gang" established in the proposed agreement kicked off this week at F-Gate. The relief gang proves that flexibility does not need to come at the cost of conditions, something Metro could definitely learn by. The new gang will eventually have a minimum of 12 members, many of which will supplement the MPM gang and contribute to the Murray Basin Rail Project while others complete renewals across the inner regional network.

The vast majority of the proposed V/Line EA has already been agreed, which if voted in will deliver industry standard pay increases, an improved dispute resolution process and a much needed counselling and disciplinary procedure. There are several items still outstanding but we are on track to reach an in-principle agreement over the coming weeks.



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