

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 3 | Issue 9 | 5 May 2016



Letter from Secretary

STATE BUDGET FOCUSES ON OUR INDUSTRY



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

The 2016-2017 Victorian State Budget provides historic commitments to public transport improvements

throughout the state, including a much needed \$1.3 billion commitment to regional public transport. These planned developments will provide improved workspaces for members, safer and more efficient routes home for commuters as well as increasing employment for Victorian workers.

Members will know how drastically the strain on public transport has increased in recent years, particularly in the northern regional areas of the state. Finally, we have a state Budget that delivers on long standing requirements for the duplication of single line rail tracks which have been suffocating regional services for years.

The Government has pledged a commendable \$518 million to the Ballarat line which will include a 17km duplication of track between Deer Park West and Melton and three crossing loops at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and near Bungaree. Similarly, the budget also outlines a \$140.2 million upgrade to the Hurstbridge line, including duplication of single rail track between Heidelberg and Rosanna and the addition of a second tunnel, effectively removing two dangerous level

crossings and decreasing congestion in the area. The addition of extra loops and removal of five dangerous level crossings will assist services recovering from unexpected delays, decrease congestion and improve safety for motorists and pedestrians in those local communities.

The RTBU is pleased to hear that the State Government plans to fully fund the \$587.7 million Mernda rail extension. While previous state governments had no regard for forming deadlines for their vague projects, this Government has committed to completing this rail extension by 2019, which will be assisted by new bus networks commencing on May 1 this year.

This Budget reflects many of the rolling stock demands that the RTBU made in our last Budget submission. Daniel Andrews outlines 4 major investments in a detailed and fully funded rolling stock strategy which will include:

- \$875 million for 28 extra High Capacity Metro Trains, on top of the 37 from last year's Budget
- \$280.4 million for 27 VLocity carriages and extra stabling in addition to the 37 in 2015
- \$105.2 million for five X'Trapolis trains
- \$15 million for upgrades to trains on the North East line

However, the proposed expansion to rail networks, while welcomed, will mean nothing if our submission for adequate staffing levels are ignored. The RTBU remains adamant on calling for increased staffing of additional Authorised Officers and Station Officers at unstaffed stations, especially during Friday and Saturday nights.

While the RTBU recognises that public transport remains at the forefront of the Andrew's Government's budgetary concerns, the Federal Government has apparently lost interest in Victorian public transport entirely.

With the Federal Budget looming, there seems to be no commitment or response from the Turnbull Government regarding our State Government's calls for assistance in infrastructure investment.

I'm sure members can see that this historic public transport overhaul reflects a State Government that is not merely throwing frivolous promises around for the sake of winning an election. These detailed strategies and commitments to infrastructure demonstrate a change in State Government focus, representing necessary and welcome steps towards safer and more efficient public transport in our state.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

V/Line Operations Enterprise Agreement

Delegates Meeting

Friday 6 May

11:00am

2/365 Queen St Melbourne

RTBU
The power of Union

Operations | Infrastructure | Workshops | Salaried

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A WIN FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY AT METRO INFRASTRUCTURE



BRYAN EVANS

Organiser

Health and safety in the workplace is a critically important issue we face as a union – there is no point having great wages and conditions if

you don't make it home safely to your loved ones at the end of each day.

After pushing Metro to negotiate with us for several months, we can finally announce a win for the safety of track members:

eight new HSRs have been negotiated. These positions include; three at Bell, three at Caulfield, one at E-Gate and one for the IEV and NDT testers.

These elections are currently underway and will see the reinstatement of a health and safety committee for track, something that has been notably absent for some time. This committee will be tasked with dealing with general health and safety issues but also establishing procedures for how Metro are to communicate changes to rules and accreditations moving forward.

This will give the opportunity for members to take a proactive stance on safety as opposed to the reactive position that members have had to tolerate for the last several years.

Nomination forms have been placed on the union boards across E-Gate, Caulfield and Bell. Interested members should not hesitate to nominate.

If there are any queries on the role or the election process members should contact me on 0457 006 739

AROUND THE TRAPS



JAMIE PORTER

Organiser

DARREN GALEA

Organiser

Vline EA

V/Line Enterprise Agreement negotiations have been going full steam ahead with the RTBU meeting with V/Line three days a week for the past month.

Negotiations have been progressing well with the hope of having a fourth draft EA to be presented to the RTBU this week. This draft will be presented to the delegates this Friday, 6 May, with the intention of reviewing the offer and determining a way forward. As always members will be kept fully informed.

Wilson Security EA

The RTBU and Wilson Security have been negotiating for a new enterprise agreement since November last year. Regular meetings have continued during this time yet the progress of these meetings have been less than desirable.

Key claims for members are the provisions of a travel pass and or car park, a fair wage

outcome and uniform policies with the inclusion of summer wear to be included into the EA.

All of these have been rejected by Wilson Security management and the only counter offer we have received is a rollover of conditions and a 6% wage increase over the life of the agreement.

This has been flatly rejected by delegates and members leading to instruction by the delegates to seek a Protected Industrial Action Ballot Order (PABO) if Wilson Security will not take these negotiations seriously and give the members a fair deal.

If you have any queries or questions please feel free to call the Union office on 9600-3030.

RTBU WOMEN'S WORKPLACE ADVOCATE

At the recent RTBU Women's Conference a motion was passed requesting an increase to the representation of women in our union. The RTBU has a long history of being an inclusive union, however, the overwhelming majority of delegates are male. There are many workplaces in which some women feel there is no one with whom they can comfortably raise concerns.

The position of RTBU Women's Workplace Advocate is thus intended to be an additional

point of contact for women within each workplace or work group. This position will be elected by women members of each workplace or work group and is intended to compliment, not replace, the position of workplace delegate. The existence of a women's advocate will not prevent women from running for election as delegate. Elected Women's activists will receive advocate training from the RTBU to support them in their role.

No doubt the role of this position will evolve and develop over time and may differ slightly from workplace to workplace as required.

Role of an RTBU Women's Workplace Advocate:

- To work with RTBU delegates and officials to advocate for the rights of women at work.
- Attend monthly delegates meetings where they exist
- To attend and promote events of RTBUWomen
- To facilitate the involvement of women members in union campaigns and events
- To strengthen and support the union as a whole

For more information or to have an election for an RTBU Women's Advocate in your workplace contact the RTBU:

8630 9100

women@rtbuvic.com.au

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Luba Grigorovitch

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Secretary: Jon Saw

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

