

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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V/LINE EA - DELAYS CONTINUE



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Members are well aware that V/Line EA negotiations have dragged on for too long. Both the V/Line Operations and

Infrastructure EA's are yet to be finalised with negotiations dragging for beyond 12 months.

A Protected Action Ballot Application Order (PABO) has been lodged with the Fair Work Commission (FWC) and members are currently voting. If an agreement has not been met by the time results are back and if the members vote YES to take action, then the Union will lodge to take action as soon as the results are returned.

The short answer to the question 'why', is because this EA negotiation period has well and truly dragged on for too long under the guise of 'good faith bargaining'.

In saying that, we are closer than we have been in reaching an agreement. Last week the RTBU V/Line negotiating team and I met with V/Line management (including the CEO) with the aim of reaching an agreement on that day.

Although we didn't reach agreement on that day, we did get one step closer.

Following the V/Line Delegates meeting held on Wednesday 24 August, we have clear instructions from the Delegates to head to negotiations. There are a few minor sticking points which must be agreed on prior to approval from the RTBU for the EA. These points are crucial to ensuring a good EA. In the fight to get this EA across the line we are united with the Drivers in the Locomotive Division to ensure that we get one EA that is a good EA for all members.

Although the RTBU is hopeful that the EA will be signed off ASAP, let's not make the mistake of not voting for Protected Industrial Action (PIA). It is extremely important that all V/Line members vote YES in the PABO which has been mailed to your house.

Below is the schedule for the PABO so please ensure that you are aware of the opening and closing dates and return your ballot before it closes. We are calling on our members of the RTBU to be united and vote YES to all questions in the fight for your EA.

There have been meetings scheduled around the network, however if you are unsure of when they are occurring in your area, please call your local Delegate or Organiser. A flyer separate to this will be emailed and faxed to all lines.

Once again, I appreciate that this EA has been a long time in the making and I apologise for the delay. We will not settle for a sub-standard EA and we will continue to fight for the best EA possible.

If you have any questions please contact your relevant division. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

Wednesday, 24 August 2016	Ballot opens – AEC posts ballot material to eligible voters.
Monday, 12 September 2016	Ballot Closes 10:00am AEST. AEC counts ballot and advises parties of the result. Returning Officer declares results to FWC and informs parties
Monday, 12 September 2016	Date that ballot is to be completed by (as contained in the orders).

 **WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777**

The compensation meant
I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon
Lawyers

RTBU
The power of Union

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INTRODUCING JESS



Jess Mekhael

Industrial Officer

I started with the RTBU as the Industrial Officer about one month ago, and in this short period I have already truly learned the power of

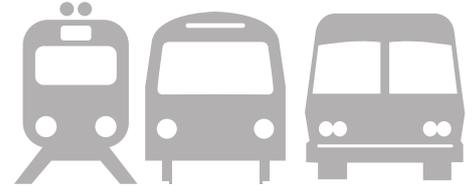
Union. The environment is dynamic and there is an array of matters that constantly arise.

Prior to working with the RTBU, I worked at Slater and Gordon Lawyers in the Industrial & Employment Law team.

After having worked with the firm for quite some time, when the opportunity arose with the RTBU, I immediately applied for the role. I knew that the RTBU is a strong and active union and one that I aspired to be a part of. I was extremely happy when I was offered the role, and now that I am working here, the role has exceeded my expectations. The RTBU is lively, strong and bustling with energy as we all endeavour to work for our members and the growth of our union.

I am proud to work for the RTBU and I am looking forward to meeting members. If you have any issues that you want to discuss, please contact your organiser and we can arrange advice.

I will be visiting sites over the coming months so I hope to meet you. If you are near the office, please pop in and say hi. ■



AROUND THE TRAPS



Joe Maisano

Acting Organiser

Metro Station Delegates meetings have been progressing well so far. There have been many issues and

concerns that have been raised and since rectified.

It is difficult at times to have all of the Station Delegates at every meeting for various reasons such as being booked off or working late shift, however we always attempt to have as many as possible to allow for optimum productivity in the meetings.

Last month a Metro stations Delegates meeting took place at the RTBU office. There was attendance from Metro Management, numerous RTBU Delegates and Union officials. The meeting was successful in communicating many topics and issues in regards to new training for Station Staff, the extension of Night Network and much more.

With the refurbishment works occurring at Flinders Street Station, there has been a change in work practises, with a large amount of disturbance from the noisy and dusty environment.

Metro Management have been approached on many occasions by the RTBU and we are still waiting for further confirmation that the Disruption Payment will be made to the members.

If you have any questions or queries, please give me a call on **0411 819 267**. ■



Joe Maisano at Melbourne Central with members after the Central Stations Delegates monthly meeting.

Contact us

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Luba Grigorovitch

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Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

**Infrastructure, Workshops
& Labour Hire**

Organiser: Bryan Evans

