

# RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
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**Luba Grigorovitch**

State Secretary

## ESSO UGLY DISPUTE

For almost 365 days, maintenance workers from ExxonMobil in Longford have been out on the grass fighting for their basic rights and conditions.

In 2017, after being awarded a further seven-year contract, the engineering giant UGL set up a subsidiary company MTCT Services Pty Ltd. Instead of continuing business as usual, UGL then sought it fit to sack the entire workforce of 200+ hardworking Australian's and offer them their jobs back under the new subsidiary company MTCT Services Pty Ltd the very next day, with their pay and conditions slashed.

For these workers, signing new contracts with MICT Services Pty Ltd would see:

- 30% to 50% Drop in Wages
- Annual Leave Entitlements Cut
- Significant Allowances Cut
- Worker's Shift Loading's Cut
- Implementation of Harsh anti-family shift rosters (eg. from 1 week on & 1 week off, to 5 weeks on & 1 week off)
- Implementation of Stand Down Clauses which could see employees at work, but unpaid

This is an absolute disgrace and unfortunately happening all too often. We saw this in 2016 with the CUB Dispute and I'm sure this won't be the last time that an anti-worker, un-Australian company try and undercut hardworking Australians.

This is not just an attack on the workers at ExxonMobil, it is an attack on all workers, unions, families and Australians. The workers who are on the picket line day after day are standing up not only for themselves, but for all workers who come after them.



It is time that we stand up and fight back against another anti-worker, manipulating, non-tax paying overseas company.

On 28 June 2018, it will be the one-year anniversary of the picket. For these workers, over the last 365 days, their lives have been turned upside down, their personal lives, almost non-existent. They need our support, and the support from the entire union movement.

*On 28 June, the RTBU will be sending a contingent of officials, members and supporters to Longford for the one-year anniversary of the picket. If you would like to join the RTBU on the day, please call the RTBU Office on 8630 9100 to register your attendance.*

*We will be meeting at the RTBU Office at 7:30am for an 8am departure to Longford.*

The day will include a BBQ lunch and activities for kids followed by a mass meeting with guest speakers. Let's help these workers send a message to UGL and ESSO and show that the union movement will not give up!

To find out more information about the dispute, or to donate money to the workers, you can visit: <https://www.essouglydispute.com/>

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
- State Secretary

## Jeff Ford

RTBU Delegate V/Line

# BUFFETS ON VLOCITYS

Over the last few weeks I have had a lot of discussions with V/Line management to find out their thoughts about the lack of commitment to catering modules being installed into VLocity trains. I was aware of pictures and plans for catering modules to be installed into a separate carriage of a VLocity which would turn a three car VLocity into a four car set. This however, had not been officially communicated until last week.

I was pleased to hear that V/Line management were keen to continue providing catering on regional services as this is an essential part of the service that is provided to the travelling customers that they very much appreciate being on their trains.

I had also sent emails and have spoken to Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch about

trying to get the current Victorian Government to commit to the catering buffets being installed into VLocity trains. I had hoped that by having V/Line management and the union pushing for this commitment, that the Government would be more likely to commit.

By 2022, the plan is for H-sets and N-sets to be retired from the fleet and all be replaced by VLocity trains. While it seems like a long time, it will come quicker than everyone thinks which why I have tried my hardest to keep the pressure on management and the union to get a commitment from the State Government.

By getting this commitment confirmed it protects approximately 60 full time positions across the V/Line network around the State and could open up the opportunity for more positions, as buffets could be added to extra

journeys such as, Southern Cross to Bendigo then to Echuca and also Southern Cross to Maryborough and even Southern Cross to Ararat

On 17 May 2018 Luba confirmed with me that she had been pursuing V/Line CEO James Pinder and the Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan about getting a commitment for buffets to be included on the VLocitys. On that day, we got that great news that James Pinder had verbally committed to catering modules being installed into VLocity trains which is a great win for V/Line staff.

I am proud to report that the RTBU has received written confirmation from V/Line that catering modules will be installed into VLocity trains. This is a great win for the conductor grade, and I thank everyone for their support and hard work in getting this done.



**Joe Maisano**

Organiser

## STATION CLEANING

Under the MR4 contract, Metro Trains are obliged to meet a minimum cleaning standard. If this cleaning standard is not met, the company face heavy penalties for this.

The MR4 contract commenced on 1 June 2018, meaning that as of 1 June, if Metro do not abide by these guidelines in the contract, the penalties will be applied.

For the RTBU and its members, there has been no change in the cleaning standards since ISS took over in November of 2017. Since November, the standards of cleaning have been abysmal, and despite numerous letters from the RTBU to Metro and Government, there has still been no improvement in the cleaning, and staff are facing abuse from customers every day due to the lack of hygiene at stations.

The RTBU advises members that station staff are not required to clean stations inside or

outside the station as was in the MR3 contract. If any staff members are approached to clean the station, there are only two occasions in which this should occur:

1. Being when there is a serious safety hazard that needs to be cleaned ASAP. Eg: broken glass, syringe etc.
2. A large piece of paper on the platform is visible as you are entering or exiting the station, you should pick it up.

Under no other circumstances should station staff be asked or forced to do further cleaning.

It has come to light that Metro will be attempting to enforce station staff to clean platforms and stations. If you are being pressured to do further cleaning or you are experiencing any issues around this, please contact myself on 0421122 437 or the Union Office on 8630 9100.

## RTBU WOMEN MEETING IN BALLARAT

Thanks to all the RTBU Women who attended the June meeting in Ballarat. It was a huge success and a great day in the V/Line Western Region!

The next meeting of RTBU Women is on Thursday 12 July at Glenferrie Station at 11am.



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