

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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RTBU CALLS ON THE ALP TO SUPPORT PUBLIC TRANSPORT MOTION



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Last weekend the Australian Labor Party (ALP) held its annual conference. The conference was attended by hundreds of

ALP Delegates, made up of both rank and file members and Union members who discussed current challenges and issues affecting workers, established goals for the future and debated policy that will steer the Government in times ahead.

Our Union was able to push the party on the transport agenda and ensure that the voice of our members was heard. As a part of the RTBU's re-franchise campaign, RTBU Assistant Secretary Phil Altieri and I were able to successfully pass a motion on conference floor to call on the Government to bring the operation of both the rail and tram network back into public hands, or if the Government weren't prepared to make this bold move then to, at a minimum, open up the re-franchising process to a competitive tender process.

The motion created a great deal of controversy as it directly challenges the plans of Premier Daniel Andrews and Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan. The RTBU has made it very clear that we refuse to allow these multi-million dollar companies, both Metro Trains and Yarra Trams, to simply have their contracts rolled over by the Government.

This motion was a smart move by the Union and it was sensational that we got it passed on conference floor.

Because of the controversy which the motion caused within the ALP, it was picked up by the media and the following was reported in the Age on Sunday 14 November:

"The ALP conference voted in favour of a motion calling for Melbourne's trains and trams – privatised under the Kennett government – to return to public hands.

Such a motion being passed will put pressure on the government as it negotiates new contracts for the transport network over the next few months. However, the Rail Tram and Bus Union argues that the system ought to be publicly owned and operated, because privatisation had done little to deliver lower costs and a better-performing system.

"Despite the best efforts of workers, successive multinational operators have used Melbourne's metropolitan Rail and Tram networks as a cash cow, letting them fall into the disrepair – resulting in taxpayers receiving inadequate services and reliability despite the high subsidies being paid by government," the union's resolution said.

While this motion being passed is a step in the right direction, this battle of getting the Government to change operators is no easy task. It is still a long road ahead and it certainly won't be an easy one. The RTBU is not willing to simply let a rollover of either company occur. Now more than ever the Union must remain united in the fight against these companies. The easy answer for the Government is to roll over the franchise's. If this is not something that you want to see then I suggest you get in-touch with the Union office and get involved in the campaign.

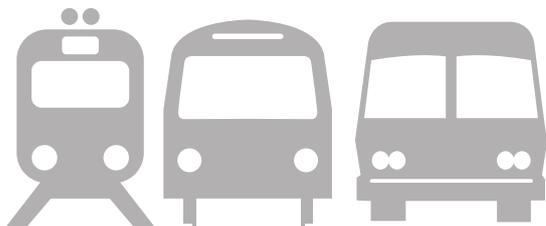
Ultimately it is the decision of the State Government. A decision which will be made in the New Year. We can't waste a moment in 2017, we must ensure that we are loud and proud in our battle.

Ideally the RTBU would like to see these assets back in the hands of the public, however if this can't occur then the Government owes the thousands of RTBU members that keep the network running, and the thousands of members of the travelling public who use these networks daily, the respect to at least open up the re-franchising process to a competitive tender in an effort to get the best operator possible.

The current contracts rip off Victorians and allows too much money to be stripped from our assets and shipped offshore to shareholders rather than reinvested into Melbourne's public transport system.

Members deserve to be treated better, the travelling public deserves the best system possible and tax payers deserve to get value for their money. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary



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V/LINE CONTROL



Joe Maisano
Organiser

The RTBU arranged with the Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan to attend a tour of Control to better

understand how the critical hub functions and the important work performed by RTBU members.

Control Delegate Damien Dalton-Maccrea led the tour showing the Minister around areas such as the Cars Office and the Train Control Room to help her understand the challenging and stressful work performed by our members and more broadly the way in which our railways actually operate.

As her first behind the scenes visit to Control, I hope we can continue to build and maintain a relationship of understanding with the Minister to ensure our members voices and experiences are heard and understood by the politicians at Spring St.

Members had the opportunity to speak with the Minister about the pressures, fulfilment and challenges of their daily occupation as well as the chance to provide feedback and raise specific matters requiring attention.

A big thanks to Delegate Damien Dalton-Maccrea for asking Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch to arrange this visit. ■



Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan with Control members



Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch with Cars Office members



WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

The compensation meant
I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon
Lawyers

ARTC MEMBERS FLAME PROPOSED AGREEMENT



Bryan Evans
Organiser

ARTCs anti-union stunt of putting a non-union, dud agreement to a vote without reaching consensus with the unions at the bargaining

table has backfired, with the agreement sent packing by members last week. A vote showed 94% of members voting against the agreement.

ARTC went as far as attempting to exclude unions from the voting process, in what is essentially viewed as a declaration of war against the RTBU and ETU who are both signatories to the agreement. ARTC previously rejected all union claims citing the federal government fair wages bargaining policy.

The RTBU wish to recommence bargaining in good faith to deliver an agreement that is good for everybody, not just ARTC. We urge the company to get back to the bargaining table ASAP. Whatever happens in the New Year however, one thing is for certain: the members will not be accepting the excuse "Malcom made me do it".

Members will be kept updated on the situation as it progresses.

Thank you to all ARTC members who again stuck together. It is your Unity that will ensure we get the best deal possible. ■



Organiser Bryan Evans with ARTC members



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BUSINESS SHIRTS



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