



# ONTRACK

August 2015

**THE WORKERS UNITED.  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT  
WORKERS SEND A  
STRONG MESSAGE TO  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT  
OPERATORS.**

**OVER  
98%  
SUPPORT IN METRO  
AND YARRA TRAMS  
FOR PROTECTED  
INDUSTRIAL ACTION!**



**RTBU**  
The power of Union

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# LET US BE HEARD

Secretary's Report | Luba Grigorovitch

As Yarra Trams and Metro management keep looking for more efficiency from staff to send bigger profits off shore, the importance of working conditions to ensure balance and duly support workers on the ground is imperative. This is a growth industry and at its foundation is your work in making it run.

The RTBU Branch Executive met on Wednesday 12 August and passed the following resolution:

## **MOTION: Enterprise Agreement Bargaining and Industrial Action**

"This meeting of Branch Executive moves that:

1. The RTBU Branch Executive acknowledges the need to remain united in advocating to promote critical claims in enterprise agreement negotiations with major metropolitan public transport operators.

Branch Executive notes that in the protected action ballots over 98% of both Metro and Yarra Trams members voted in favour of industrial action. This is striking confirmation of the unity and frustration of our members.

With negotiations stalled and current enterprise agreements well past their nominal expiry, it is time for the RTBU to push with a united front for a fair agreement to be promptly reached. While MTM and KDR fail to take the necessary steps in considering and responding to the needs of RTBU members, appropriate protected industrial action must be taken.

Branch Executive does not make this decision lightly, however we must activate our legal right to take protected action to further advance the claims of RTBU members.

This will be the first step and if agreement isn't reached, further measures should be discussed and appropriately implemented.

2. The RTBU Branch Executive instructs the State Secretary to give notice of a four hour stoppage for Metro Trains Melbourne during the off peak between 10am – 2pm for Friday 21 August, as well as free travel days on Wednesday 19 August as well as Friday 21 August.
3. The RTBU Branch Executive instructs the State Secretary to give notice of a four hour stoppage for Yarra Trams during the off peak between 10am – 2pm for Friday 21 August.

**Moved:** Luba Grigorovitch

**Seconded:** Phil Altieri

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RTBU members would be aware of the situation surrounding Enterprise Agreement (EA) bargaining over the past few months. All Divisions of our Union have been bargaining in good faith with the major public transport operators, Metro, V/Line and Yarra Trams respectively to secure decent EAs.

Whilst bargaining with V/Line is still in the early stages after unnecessary delays with the commencement of bargaining, sadly, management at not only Metro but also Yarra Trams have been obstructive of the RTBU's claims, and bargaining has to date offered no guarantee of important workplace rights and conditions for members being protected in the next EAs.

It is clear that management at both Metro and Yarra Trams think they are in a position to bluster and obstruct enterprise bargaining until their workforce caves in and accepts their preferred terms and conditions

such as longer shift lengths, poorer overtime provisions, dispute resolution procedures which ask to shift more power to managers, sectorised running and an unwillingness to bend in favor of a robust and equal trauma leave scheme.

Our Union is not about to be pushed into a corner and walk away from its members' livelihoods. Our members have a right to fight to secure decent workplace rights and conditions and the RTBU has therefore resolved to push with a united front to take the necessary step of industrial action across both Metro and Yarra Trams in this fight.

Following meetings of delegates, members and the recent Branch Executive meeting which unanimously endorsed the motion above, workers covered by the Operations EAs at Metro and Yarra Trams respectively, will engage in a 4 hour work stoppage next Friday 21 August from 10am to

2pm. This means that our metropolitan train and tram networks will come to a halt for this 4 hour period.

These stoppages will be backed up by "free travel days" for commuters on Metro rail the preceding Wednesday 19th and on Friday 21st August all day, with members covered by the Metro Operations EA to leave passenger ticket barriers at train stations open and a ban on inspecting Myki cards. The 4 hour stoppage and free travel days this week - with the possibility of further industrial action, including stoppages, in the weeks following – will send a strong message to the public transport operators in Victoria that they must start taking our members seriously by addressing our key claims and clauses in the proposed EAs and make a fair and genuine offer for our members.

A mass meeting of members will coincide with the 4 hour stoppage on Friday 21 August and will be held



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”

at Victorian Trades Hall at 11:30am sharp. After our mass meeting is complete, we will be marching to Flinders Street Station where demonstration will commence at 12:15pm.

Please note these times and be in attendance if you are entitled to engage in the protected industrial action. RTBU members not protected by the industrial action but who are not rostered for duty or on approved leave across our industry are also encouraged to attend.

**“Our members need to have their voice heard in this bargaining round, and have the legal right to withdraw their labour and engage in protected industrial action in our fight to secure important workplace rights, conditions and a fair wage outcome.”**

It goes without saying that our proposed industrial action is not intended to harm the travelling public in their day to day lives. But our members need to have their voice heard in this bargaining round, and have the legal right to withdraw their labour and engage in protected industrial action in our fight to secure important workplace rights, conditions and a fair wage outcome.

If we stand proud and remain united in advocating to promote critical claims in enterprise bargaining negotiations with the major public transport operators we will win this fight together.

Please share the details of our industrial action across your networks, and urge your friends and family to attend our mass actions.



Luba Grigorovitch  
Branch Secretary



# METRO & YARRA TRAMS **RALLY** FOR A FAIR DEAL FRIDAY 21 AUGUST

**MEMBERS MEETING**

**11:30AM START, SHARP**

**MELBOURNE TRADES HALL**

**CNR VICTORIA ST & LYCON ST**

**12:00PM MARCH TO FSS**

**PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION**

**12:15PM START**

**FLINDERS STREET STATION STEPS**

## UNITED WE STAND.

RTBU MEMBERS NOT PROTECTED BY THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION WHO ARE NOT ROSTERED FOR DUTY OR ARE ON APPROVED LEAVE ACROSS OUR INDUSTRY ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.



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