

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Letter from Secretary

A TALE OF TWO BUDGETS



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

In our industry it is vital that adequate funding is allocated from all levels

of Government, both State and Federal, to ensure that forward planning of critical infrastructure occurs. Public transport is an ever-expanding industry precisely because its growth is continuously geared to the needs and movements of the community it serves, and I hence make no apologies for saying it requires continual investment from government.

In recent weeks both the State and Federal budgets have been handed down. I note with great interest the contrast between these two budgets. In Victoria, public transport is at the forefront of the State Government's agenda, with the largest amount of funding in history being allocated to public transport. Disappointingly, this is not the case with the Federal Budget, where the Federal arena has clearly left support for public transport off the table. The wilful neglect of our industry in the Federal Budget has direct ramifications for the State Budget.

So what does this mean for us?

In its Budget of 5 May, the Andrews State Government announced \$2 billion which has been allocated to new trains, trams and jobs in public transport for Victoria.

This Budget has put funding into new infrastructure projects, including funding for the Melbourne Metro Rail and Cranbourne-

Pakenham rail projects, the removal of Victoria's 50 most unsafe level crossings, the renovation of Flinders Street Station, Homesafe and the upgrade of crucial stations. This will boost employment and growth across the public transport industry, including in stations, administration and customer service and in both blue and white collar areas of our sector.

For members of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union this is a budget which will allow our industry to thrive and for public transport to play a vital role in the daily lives of the travelling public.

In contrast, the Abbott Government's second Budget, handed down by Treasurer Joe Hockey on 12 May, is that of a Federal Government which is absconding from its responsibility to the states and playing politics with the future of Victoria. This was the Budget marketed as being the "boring" Budget - it is anything but. It is a re-run of the same austerity economics unveiled in Abbott's inaugural Budget last year, and it continues its drastic cuts to health, human services and welfare support for the people in our community who need it the most: workers, single parents, the unemployed and the sick.

It is the ramifications of this Budget for Victoria's public transport industry that is most stark for our Union and membership. In a supposed 'saving' exercise, Hockey is demanding back \$1.5 billion of infrastructure funding from the Victorian Government. This represents half of the \$3 billion that was originally set aside for the Napthine Government's East/West Link.

The East/West road tunnel was roundly rejected by Victoria's electorate at last year's state election as ineffective and unwanted showpiece infrastructure. Napthine's conservative colleagues in Canberra are now demanding the money back rather than allowing the Andrews Government to spend it on sensible infrastructure projects in the public interest, such as the Melbourne Metro

Rail tunnel or upgrading of station hubs.

Make no mistake, this move threatens in a very real way the viability of rail infrastructure in our state and the future of public transport workers' jobs. That is outrageous and the RTBU condemns it.

No Government is perfect, irrespective of who is in power. Our task is dual. Industrially, our job is to encourage all governments to see the worth of vital investment in our industry. Population growth in Victoria is rising daily. We must continue to fly the flag and ensure that our voices are heard so that we are best placed to receive adequate funding for infrastructure. Politically, our task is to campaign against any force, be it government or employer, which threatens our members' jobs, living standards or futures.

The Abbott Government has made its agenda clear as day so far rights and standing of working people in Australia are concerned. Now basic federal support for public transport infrastructure is in the gun. The battle lines have been drawn.

The RTBU has said it before and will say so again; any government which ignores public transport will be lucky to survive more than one term.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary



RTBU
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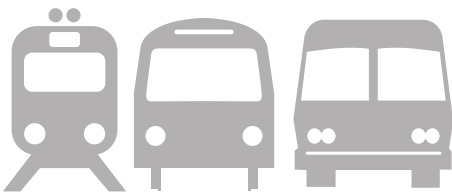
RTBU RECOGNISES LONG-SERVING MEMBERS

The RTBU once again recently had the pleasure of presenting plaques to three RTBU members for their long-standing loyalty and service to our Union.

The RTBU presented loyalty plaques last month to Russell Pike, Hristos Tsirkas and Brian Lambs. Russell and Brian have maintained continuous membership with the RTBU for 30 years, and Hristos for 40 years.

Congratulations to Russell, Christos and David for their outstanding example of loyalty to the Union cause.

Members are the backbone of the RTBU. It is important that we always remember and respect those that came before us. If you are a long-serving member and you are yet to receive a loyalty plaque, please contact the office on **9600 3030**.



UNION STANDS FIRM ON ENTERPRISE BARGAINING



Bryan Evans
Organiser

Meetings have recently been held across track and other areas of the Infrastructure Division by other unions proposing that their members support the current EA being rolled over for 12 months in return for a 4% wage increase. This would mean that the opportunity to address our member's claims that go to the current

working conditions through the EA bargaining process, would be put on hold.

In response to this the RTBU held an urgent delegates meeting to discuss our position.

The response to support such a proposal was unanimously NO!

The RTBU has and always will listen to our membership. You have told us loud and clear that there are too many unresolved issues with the current Infrastructure EA that to delay bargaining for a wage increase alone is not good enough. In response

to this, the RTBU insisted that a Notice of Representational Rights is sent out immediately and the first bargaining meeting has now been scheduled.

If an offer is formally put to the RTBU from Management, a vote will be conducted at each depot, however if you do have any questions in the meantime feel free to contact me on **0457 006 739**. Meetings are being scheduled throughout all areas of the infrastructure over the next fortnight to discuss the upcoming EA and provide more information regarding negotiations.

COUNTRY VISITS HAPPENING NOW



Jamie Porter
Organiser

Having spent my first few weeks travelling around with previous Organiser Bryan Evans learning the ropes and meeting

members across our industry, I am looking forward to really getting stuck into my new role and representing our members in the Administration, Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division across all worksites.

A few weeks ago Bryan and I visited the Regional lines at Bairnsdale & Albury where

I was able to meet Union comrades at the stations of:

Drouin, Warragul, Moe, Morewell, Taralgon, Sale, Bairnsdale, Wangaratta, Benalla, Seymour, Kilmore

It was a great opportunity to meet fellow members and provide them with an update on the current status of the V/Line Enterprise Agreement (EA) planning meetings and advise them of the officials that will be a part of the bargaining process with V/Line.

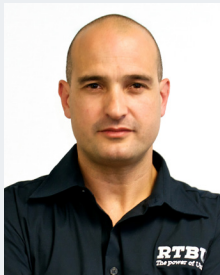
Unfortunately I was unable to meet all members along the way due to different shifts, however on my next visit I will ensure notices go out to all stations advising

what dates and times I will be visiting so all members get the opportunity to say G'day and get briefed on everything that is going on with our Union.

Thank you to those members from across all worksites that I have met so far. I look forward to continuing to visit members working for the different companies across the railways and being part of representing and standing up for our members in this round of EA negotiations.

Please don't hesitate to call or email me directly on **0403 863 869** or **Jamie.porter@rtbuvic.com.au**

WINTER HEADWEAR FOR AO'S



Darren Galea
Organiser

Winter wear has been an ongoing issue for our Authorised Officers for some time now. Beanies were

originally allowed to be worn only on a full 8 hour occupation regardless of temperature as per Metro policy.

It took the RTBU a number of years to change Metro's policy so that AOs could wear beanies in temperatures of 10 degrees or less.

However, the RTBU was still not happy with a temperature restriction being in place for winter headwear. We believe it is only fair that beanies be worn at the discretion of our own members.

Since negotiating for a number of months with Metro management, the RTBU has been able to remove the temperature restriction from the policy so that all AOs could wear their beanies regardless of temperature throughout the winter months. This also applies to MMAOs.

If any Authorised Officer has not received a Metro beanie, you should approach your supervisor to issue you with one.

We also have many issues with the current uniforms for Authorised Officers. We face this problem in stations and other departments in Metro. The RTBU will continue to advocate for a uniform that is fit for purpose having regard to gender, maternity requirements, grade etc.

If you have any queries please contact me on **0421 122 437**.



YOUR EA CAMPAIGN: UPDATE



Rima Tawil
Industrial Officer

Bargaining has now commenced for replacement Enterprise Agreements (EAs) for the Operations, Infrastructure and Roiling Stock Divisions at Metro.

In Operations, the RTBU bargaining team has attended negotiation meetings with Metro where the parties have exchanged logs of claims. A schedule of bargaining meetings has also been developed for the Rolling Stock

and Infrastructure Divisions, with the first meetings to take place in the coming weeks.

At V/Line, the RTBU formally wrote to the CEO requesting that bargaining for a new EA for the Operations Division formally commence. V/Line has responded to our request, stating they are currently awaiting approval from the State Government before they can formally commence the bargaining process. The RTBU expects that once this approval is received we will get straight into negotiations for the Operations EA, with the Infrastructure EA to follow.

We have also commenced bargaining with John Holland and Alstom Ballarat and expect

bargaining will commence with the other employers over the coming months.

Our objective is to achieve a strong wage increase, in line with our previous agreements and to protect current conditions which are paramount to our industry. All six Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch are more united than ever and are determined to do everything we can to ensure a just outcome for our members in Victoria.

Members will be kept updated as negotiations progress.

If you have any questions please contact your Organiser or the Union Office on **9600 3030**.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

YOUR SAY!

As a Union member, your Union represents your interests in bargaining for an Enterprise Agreement (EA) with your employer. To have your say in what is negotiated on your behalf, you need to become a member of your union.

What is an EA?

EAs set out the terms and conditions of employment for all employees covered by a particular EA. They can cover a broad range of matters, such as:

- rates of pay
- employment conditions (e.g. hours of work, meal breaks, overtime)
- dispute resolution and consultation procedures
- specific rights and obligations of the employer and employees

Why an EA?

When an EA is in operation, the EA will apply instead of a Modern Award. Although Awards provide minimum pay and employment standards for a particular industry, an EA can provide greater coverage and better pay and conditions, tailored to your position and specific workplace needs.

The RTBU has a long and proud history of delivering better wages and working conditions for members across the public transport industry.

JOIN YOUR EA CAMPAIGN BY BECOMING AN RTBU MEMBER TODAY.

Have you moved house or changed jobs recently?

Please let us know if your details have changed by calling us on **9600 3030** or send us an email on the address below.

Do you have an email address?

Do you have a mobile phone number?

send us an email:

rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au

Contact us

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Admin & Salaried Division
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Workshops Division
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Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

