

V/LINE RAIL OPERATIONS 2019

Protected Industrial Action Ballot lodged

25 October 2019

As you may be aware, the RTBU has officially lodged a Protected Action Ballot order (PABO) in relation to bargaining for a new agreement to cover our members in V/Line Rail Operations. This is the beginning of a process which will involve a vote from you, our Members, about whether we should take Protected Industrial Action (Industrial Action).

The RTBU believes Industrial Action is necessary for the reasons outlined in this notice.

Despite requests by the RTBU to commence negotiations in January, bargaining between the RTBU and V/Line only commenced in July. We seek to retain or improve on the hard-won conditions in the current agreement, as well as fighting for a fair and reasonable pay rise for our Members.

We have put forward a number of claims, many of which would cost V/Line little or nothing, however, V/Line have dismissed them without much explanation. Some of these are;

- Amendments to the Supplementary Labour Hire clause
 - The RTBU is seeking a stronger clause in relation to the use of supplementary labour hire to ensure supplementary labour is not used at the expense of our Members.
- Notice on permanent changes to the master roster
 - The RTBU is seeking 28 days' notice before a permanent change to the master roster.
- Meal allowance parity for all grades
- Requirement to fix mistakes in wages
 - The RTBU is seeking a commitment in the EA that V/Line will fix any mistakes in wages within 48 hours.

Combined with this, V/Line has put up a claim, amongst others, to cut conditions from the current counselling and disciplinary procedure. V/Line's claim would remove the right to information in the event of a formal disciplinary. This means that if V/Line's claim were successful, a Member would have little information about an investigation into them, before they go into a meeting with management about it.

These are just some of the items currently of contention during negotiations. Bargaining is still ongoing and will continue to occur so that we can get the best possible outcome for Members.

We will continue to update you on the progress of negotiations, and if you have any further queries don't hesitate to contact your Organiser, a member of the bargaining team or the RTBU Office on 8630 9100.

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