

V/Line Operations EA Bargaining Update

The RTBU attended another bargaining meeting with V/Line yesterday to try and progress our Log of Claims. We are continuing on to fight for your conditions.

Redundancy Provisions

The RTBU continues to seek clarity and security around your redundancy provisions. While we will always fight against redundancies, we are seeking to take a proactive position should redundancy ever be on the table by seeking the implementation of safeguards. We have a basic outline that is based on the model by the current Victorian Government provision and will continue to work to get a good plan in place.

Fatigue Management

We continue to negotiate for better fatigue management. The Early Morning Shift Loading was discussed for shifts that commence or finish between 0101 am to 0359. Working this time of day is well known by us all to be brutal on your health and as such we are seeking that these shifts be limited to 6 hours or have V/Line pay a loading. With our services to soon be 24 hours it is a very real scenario where shifts that fit into this timeframe become more regular. In a 2007 report by The World Health Organization, shift work was categorised as “carcinogenic”, not to mention the impact on your home life.

Disciplinary and Counselling clause

V/Line are pushing ahead with trying to water down the Disciplinary and Counselling clause. From a legal perspective the RTBU bargaining team is concerned that you may be denied all the evidence in a disciplinary hearing. This is of serious concern due to the pressures placed on people in this situation. Under pressure it is all too common for people being interrogated to be extremely nervous, misspeak and even forget all of the events of the incident.

The current clause measures up in terms of fairness for employees and we will fight to keep it as such. An amendment we are seeking is the implementation of a sunset clause that would remove disciplinary matters from your file after 3 years. It's not fair that a mistake you may have made when you were 20 could potentially impede your chances of promotion when your 40.

P.T.O.



Time Allocations for Conductors

V/Line are seeking to totally remove the Time Allocations for conductors from the EA and instead treat them as Policy and Procedures.

We have proposed a joint review however V/Line have not moved off their claim of stripping these protections from your EA. The RTBU's concern is for the health and safety of our Conductors. We don't want people running to get their preps done. It's not safe and not professional.

We are continuing working and bargaining to get this thing done. The RTBU's claims are very conservative and we are struggling to see why V/Line are not signing off on these. We will continue in good faith to get the best deal we can for our membership.

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