

RTBU EXPRESS

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

ACTU CONGRESS SETS UNIONS FULL STEAM AHEAD



Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

The 2015 Congress of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) took place in Melbourne last month from

26-28 May. ACTU Congress is the triennial gathering of Australian unions, where 800 delegates from affiliated unions across Australia set the trade union movement's agenda for the next 3 years. The RTBU delegation was strongly represented at Congress, with RTBU comrades from across the country participating in Congress.

This year's Congress was a watershed for our movement, as unions and those we represent continue to come under unprecedented attacks from the conservative Abbott Government. ACTU President Ged Kearney and Secretary Dave Oliver both emphasised the need for a united front to defeat these attacks in their opening addresses to Congress.

During proceedings, Congress debated and passed a number of resolutions setting the ACTU's policies around campaigning, industrial disputes and lobbying government and business. The RTBU successfully moved a resolution condemning Queensland Rail employer Aurizon for unilaterally terminating its workforce's Enterprise Agreement in an ongoing dispute, as well as resolutions calling for the establishment of truth in bargaining legislation that would oblige employers to declare their financial status in bargaining. These motions will put serious pressure on rogue employers in our industry and establish equity in our bargaining framework that will benefit members.

I was personally humbled to second a Congress resolution, moved by Lisa Darmanin from the Australian Services Union, calling for the introduction of paid domestic violence leave in all minimum workplace agreements. We know all too well that domestic violence affects people in all occupations, including workers in our own public transport industry. Workers experiencing domestic violence are so often trapped in their ordeals due to lack of financial independence and a lack of support mechanisms at work. It is inexcusable that in the 21st Century, paid leave for domestic violence victims - which provides them with the financial lifeline needed to escape abusive situations at home and repair their lives - is still not written into the minimum safety

agreements of all workplaces. The carrying of this resolution will hopefully make guaranteed paid domestic violence leave a reality in the not-too-distant future.

While there was by-and-large consensus between unions on all issues at Congress, the RTBU did not ultimately support a resolution calling for unions to contribute towards a ACTU campaign levy as we believe that the existing affiliation levy is adequate and any additional funding is better spent as each affiliate sees fit.

The RTBU's main focus is to continue to fight attacks from employers and improve conditions, safety and wages at your workplace. It seems this doesn't differ from our brothers and sisters in other unions. It was comforting to discuss strategy and working collectively with other unions during the Congress.

With the year we have ahead here in Victoria it is important to remember that we are not alone in our struggle and if one employer comes after the RTBU, they will be facing the wrath of a number of unions who stand side by side with us in any fight we may encounter.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

METRO'S PRIORITY NOT PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATING YOUR EA



Bryan Evans

Organiser

Despite having officially commenced negotiations, Metro has failed to produce its log of claims.

Instead, Metro chose to use the latest bargaining meeting to showcase a short PowerPoint presentation featuring hollow and sweeping dot-points for the implementation of a Transformation Plan that will involve "significant productivity improvements" - which we know all too well translates to attacks on members wages and conditions.

When questioned about their log of claims, Metro refused to commit to providing a log stating that they intend to produce their log of claims over the course of the next 12 months. This is unacceptable and blatantly highlights Metro's desire to deliberately delay the bargaining process, in line with their previous

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agenda of delaying negotiations until June 2016, leaving the Infrastructure Division out in the cold to bargain without the industrial support of all other divisions within Metro and the wider rail industry.

With absolute disregard to good faith bargaining obligations, Metro went on to openly state that any items on the Union's log of claims with an associated cost will be rejected without consideration. It can only be assumed that this includes our claims regarding returning to fair rosters, a wage increase and increased superannuation.



Jamie Porter
Organiser

The RTBU has heard loud and clear that the delegates' structure in the Operations Division of V/Line needs to be reviewed.

With the V/Line Enterprise Agreement's (EAs) in both the Operations and Infrastructure Divisions currently up for negotiation it is important that all members are kept updated and informed about the progress of these negotiations and given the opportunity to have a say when it comes to voting on their next EA.

To ensure this happened, in addition to RTBU communications and members being able to contact their Organiser directly, members need to have a confident delegate which they can approach. Our delegates are our backbone, and our Union cannot function without strong delegate structures in place. It is the RTBU's responsibility to train up delegates so that they are best equipped to deal with any workplace issues members might be facing and to help keep members informed.

Over the next 6 weeks I plan on visiting every V/Line location twice: once to meet members and encourage them to get an active delegate at their workplace, and a further visit to conduct a delegates' election.

As members would be aware, the Metro Infrastructure EA reaches its expiry date on 30 June 2015. Given we are already half way through June we would expect that by now we would be holding mass meetings explaining developments and talking detail, with a clear understanding of what is on the table, rather than wasting time and resources on hollow presentations and prying a simple thing such as a log of claims from Metro.

Members are entitled to bargain collectively for a new enterprise agreement and as your bargaining representative, the RTBU will push full steam ahead to ensure that our fight for fair and decent wages and conditions is not

held back by the deliberate and shameful tactics that we have seen so far.

The RTBU has formally written to Metro demanding that they start treating members with the respect that they deserve and reminding Metro of their legal obligation to bargain in good faith. Metro can start by laying out their claims on the table and get serious about these negotiations.

V/LINE STATION VISITS

At some smaller locations it might be difficult to get a delegate, however at least having one RTBU contact person at every site is important.

Please make every effort to attend a meeting at a station near you. This is your opportunity to be more active in your Union and have more involvement in your EA campaign.

If we don't fight, we lose. Now more than ever we must remain united and strong to ensure that the 2015 V/Line EA's deliver the best possible outcome for members.

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

Seymour Line

Shepparton - Tuesday 16th - 13:00
Wodonga - Tuesday 16th - 15:30
Albury - Tuesday 16th - 16:15
Wangaratta - Wednesday 17th - 9:00am
Benalla - Wednesday 17th - 10:15am
Euroa - Wednesday 17th - 11:15am
Seymour - Wednesday 17th - 12:30
Tallarook - Wednesday 17th - 13:30
Broadford - Wednesday 17th - 14:15
Kilmore East - Wednesday 17th - 15:15
Wallan - Wednesday 17th - 16:15

Gippsland Line

Nar Nar goon - Tuesday 23rd - 09:00am
Drouin - Tuesday 23rd - 10:00am
Warragul - Tuesday 23rd - 10:45am
Yarragon - Tuesday 23rd - 11:30am
Trafalgar - Tuesday 23rd - 12:15

Gippsland Line (continued)

Moe - Tuesday 23rd - 13:00
Morwell - Tuesday 23rd - 14:15
Traralgon - Tuesday 23rd - 15:15
Sale - Tuesday 23rd - 17:00
Bairnsdale - Tuesday 23rd - 18:30

Ballarat Line

Ararat - Wednesday 1st July - 09:00
Ballarat - Wednesday 1st July - 11:00
Maryborough - Wednesday 1st July - 12:45
Bacchus Marsh - Wednesday 1st July - 14:45
Melton - Wednesday 1st July - 15:45

Geelong Line

Lara - Tuesday 30th - 08:30am
Geelong - Tuesday 30th - 09:30am
Sth Geelong - Tuesday 30th - 10:15am
Marshall - Tuesday 30th - 11:00am
Colac - Tuesday 30th - 12:45
Camperdown - Tuesday 30th - 13:45
Terang - Tuesday 30th - 14:45
Warrnambool - Tuesday 30th - 16:45

Bendigo Line

Swan Hill - Tuesday 7th July - 12:30
Echuca - Tuesday 7th July - 15:30
Bendigo - Wednesday 8th July - 10:00am
Castlemaine - Wednesday 8th July - 11:30am
Kyneton - Wednesday 8th July - 13:00
Woodend - Wednesday 8th July - 14:00
Macedon - Wednesday 8th July - 15:00
Gisborne - Wednesday 8th July - 15:45

Contact us

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State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

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Secretary: Kevin Killender

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmetski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

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**Infrastructure, Workshops
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