

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
VOL 2 | Issue 11 | 30 June 2015



SUNSTONE NO LONGER THE 'FAVOURERED CHILD'



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Sunstone Resources' permission to operate under the franchise agreement with Metro as a Tier

One contractor without having to go through a competitive tender process has been revoked with the government intervening to ensure current procedures are no longer followed.

This comes after a long campaign where the RTBU has mounted pressure on PTV and the government, calling into question taxpayer dollars that Metro have been funnelling into their own subsidiary, Sunstone Resources. Members would know that this labour hire firm has been receiving infrastructure contracts from Metro without the need of a competitive tender process for some time, ultimately leading to members being unfairly pushed and squeezed in their workplace rights and conditions.

Looking to obtain details about the nature of this engagement, a freedom of information request was filed recently by the RTBU. Members have been aware of the cosy relationship held between Metro and Sunstone, with many becoming rather vocal about job security and the offshoring of Australian tax dollars.

State Public Transport Minister, Jacinta Allan came out on Thursday 25 June stating that the agreement would not be allowed to continue as it currently does, as "there is no evidence (the) Sunstone arrangement provides value for money for taxpayers". Industry employees may be inclined to extend this statement to include lack of value for workers, their wages and conditions.

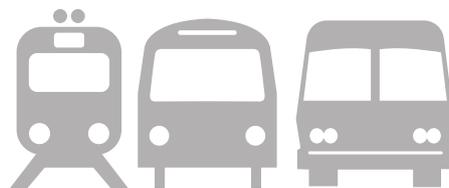
The RTBU and its membership were strongly opposed to the use of Sunstone since day one. Sunstone Resources has seen millions of taxpayer funds flow without a competitive tender process which is totally inappropriate.

There have been concerns for some time that PTV, under the previous Liberal Government, approved the use of Sunstone Resources to provide labour hire services for day to day franchise operations and in the delivery of state funded rail projects without requiring a competitive tender process. How this was approved still must be answered.

Although this announcement is far from what some would like to see, it will result in Sunstone now having to properly tender for work in a transparent manner, as other labour hire companies have to.

This is a victory for all members in the Industry as the RTBU continues to fight for job security, wages and conditions.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary



V-LINE REGIONAL VISIT

Seymour / Gippsland

Over the past two weeks I have visited stations [and depots?] along the Seymour and Gippsland lines.

This has given me the opportunity to brief members at the various stations on the V/Line log of claims, the commencement of Enterprise Agreement negotiations, and to facilitate discussion with members to ensure that members are well informed on all that is happening within our Union.

It was great to see all members along the way and even better to ensure that we have an active RTBU contact person at most of the stations so that we can continue to work towards having a solid structure for good lines of communication between all stations, members, delegates and organisers.

Warnambool and Ballarat

I will be revisiting stations along the Warnambool and Ballarat lines shortly and hope to pursue the opportunity to elect a few delegates across the region to make sure that we have a strong and united membership across ALL of V/Line for the 2015 EA Campaign. We must stand as one Union.

If you have any queries please call me on 0403 863 869



Jamie Porter
Organiser



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We know that health insurance is an important safety net for many families. But it can be both expensive and confusing to choose what's right for you, given the many different health funds and types of cover available.

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Since 1889, rt health fund has been looking after the needs of Australian transport workers. Today it's still a mutual, not-for-profit health fund, which means that it exists only to provide the best possible benefits to its members, at the best possible prices. And, because it remains a restricted membership fund, only transport and energy industry employees and their families are eligible to join.

To find out more, contact the team at rt health fund who will help you work through the process of comparing the RTBU Health Plan options against any health cover you might already have.

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Read more: log onto
www.rthealthfund.com.au/rtbu
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We're here for you!

REGIONAL RAIL LINK ROLLED OUT



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting two new locations delivered under the Regional Rail

Link (RRL) package: Wyndham and Tarneit. As reported in the past editions of RTBU Express, these stations set a benchmark for future projects to aspire to. Considering the 50 grade separations the ball is now firmly in the Andrews Government's court.

The RRL project has delivered 20 full-time station jobs, as well as seen additional conductors and drivers join our ranks. The benefits from this project will be felt for many years. The fact many of the new station staff within the surrounding areas add a direct benefit to the local economy is a welcome bonus.

I look forward to continuing to visit these two locations over the coming years. A delegate has been elected to look after these two stations: Alistair Reither, former delegate from Southern Cross and Committee of Management member.

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



WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

The compensation meant
I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon
Lawyers

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