

RTBU EXPRESS

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

THE BATTLE CONTINUES



Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

State Secretary

RTBU members in Metro and Yarra Trams would be aware of the

situation with Enterprise Agreement (EA) negotiations over the past 1-2 months. All Divisions of the Union have attempted to bargain in good faith with Metro and Yarra Trams respectively to secure decent EAs for members. Sadly both companies have been obstructive of the RTBU's claims, and the course of bargaining has offered no guarantee of our members' rights and conditions being protected in the next EAs.

It is clear that management in both Metro and Yarra Trams think they are in a position to bluster and obstruct enterprise bargaining until their workforce caves in and accepts their preferred terms and conditions. Our Union is not about to be pushed into a corner and walk away from its members' livelihoods just because the employers think they have the upper hand. For this reason, the RTBU has resolved to pursue joint industrial action across Metro and Yarra Trams.

Taking industrial action is and always has been a last resort, however the reality is that our Enterprise Agreement is now 2 months overdue. From the current offer put by Metro it is clear that Metro has so far not been fair dinkum about reaching agreement. Our members are strongly telling us that enough is enough. 98 per cent of RTBU Metro members voted to authorize industrial action.



The 4 hour stoppage which was planned for Friday 21 August was cancelled on the basis of Metro's promise of an improved offer. The offer received was basically the same as was already on the table. Consequently our members unanimously rejected the proposed EA at mass meetings held earlier this week. In view of that, our members are saying that we need to put further industrial pressure on Metro.

Metro has threatened to stand our members down and dock their pay for partial work bans and at time of printing this article they are refusing to return to the bargaining table to settle this dispute once and for all. Metro needs to return to the bargaining table and provide us with a serious and improved offer as a matter of urgency or this stoppage next Friday 4 September from 10 am to 2 pm will proceed.

We will be reinforcing our industrial action next Friday with a members' mass meeting at Victorian Trades Hall at 11.30 am.

After our mass meeting is complete, we will be marching to Flinders Street Station for a demonstration at 12.15 pm. Please note these times. All off-duty RTBU members are encouraged to attend and show their solidarity for Metro RTBU members.

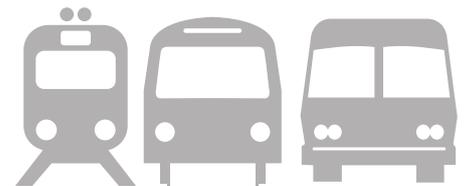
We have quickly learnt in this battle that we have support across the broader union movement and I want to thank the many unions that attended our demonstration at Flinders Street Station last week.

As RTBU Branch Secretary I am proud that we have been standing as one Union. Members from all Divisions of the union standing shoulder to shoulder.

We will win this fight together.

Please share the details of our industrial action across your networks, and urge your friends and family to attend our mass actions. United we stand, divided we fall.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary



FIELD REPRESENTATIVES



Joe Maisano

The RTBU has begun to establish a system of field representatives at each sub-group on the Metro

network. On Tuesday 24 August at an all delegates meeting, RTBU delegates resolved to set up the following sub groups with field representatives:

**Sunbury-Footscray and Werribee/
Williamstown-South Kensington:**
Stuart Symington

**Craigieburn-North Melbourne and
Upfield-North Melbourne:**
Victor Moore

**South Morang-Clifton Hill and
Hurstbridge-Clifton Hill:**
Gurninder Singh

**Lilydale-Glenferrie and
Belgrave-Glenferrie:**
John Wentworth

Glen Waverly-Burnley and Alamein:
Pradeep Balakrishnan

Pakenham/Cranbourne-Caulfield:
John Ashley

**Frankston-Glenhuntly and
Sandringham-South Yarra:**
John Heynsbergh

**Richmond-Flinders Street to
City Loop stations:**
Kath Larkin

The Field Representatives are the focal point of contact for the Sub Group Region to deliver information leaflets and posters to be sent out to other Delegates and Station Members.

All communication from the RTBU Office will be from me to these representatives.

If there are any issues, please contact me on 0411 819 267.

EA SNAPSHOT



Bryan Evans Organiser

Metro Infra

Hours of work focused on Homesafe is Metro's core claim this time around. As it stands

our core claims are focused around fixing the rosters, most of the other claims made by both parties are resting on reaching an agreement around that main issue.

The bargaining team has been working hard to progress negotiations and deliver a clear understandable outcome that members can

potentially vote on that will deliver on wages and conditions. EA Negotiations scheduled over the coming fortnight will make it clear if Metro are actually willing to reach an agreement.

Vline Infra

V/Line have unapologetically attacked every condition we hold dear this round of EA's making claims that would see the introduction of casual labour, the implementation of 4 hour shifts, the removal of bonus days, alter the structure of overtime and penalties rates all whilst either rejecting or parking all claims made by the unions. The RTBU the ETU and Apesma have been united in their response and will attempt to negotiate in good faith

with V/Line despite their outrageous claims. I will be attempting to hold meetings at every depot over the course of the next month, and I urge all members to get involved and contact their delegate or myself for more information.

Metro Rolling Stock

Once again rosters and hours of work are sitting front and centre in these negotiations, with skills, apprenticeships and job security being a main focus of the RTBU's claims. Negotiations continue and we expect to have further details following the next bargaining meeting scheduled for September 4th.

WORKERS COMPENSATION 1800 555 777

The compensation meant
I wasn't also hurt financially.

Slater Gordon
Lawyers

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State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

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Infrastructure Division
Secretary: Kevin Killender

Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmewski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Jamie Porter

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

**Infrastructure, Workshops
& Labour Hire**
Organiser: Bryan Evans

