

# RTBU EXPRESS



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

### PREMIUM STATIONS MUST BE STAFFED



**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

The flagship election promise for public transport from the Andrews

Government is due to be rolled out on January 1, 2016: Homesafe, an initiative that would provide all night, 24 hour public transport on weekends.

The RTBU regards Homesafe as long overdue and welcomes its introduction. The provision of all night public transport on weekends will guarantee better safety for both staff and customers on the metropolitan network. However, we remain deeply concerned by Public Transport Victoria's intention to leave almost all premium stations unstaffed during the hours in which Homesafe will be operational.

If the trial of Homesafe proceeds as is, this means that only 35 out of 218 stations will be staffed under Homesafe, leaving the travelling public alone at stations in the middle of the night. This is hardly the prescription for passenger safety that Homesafe is intended to provide. By failing to staff premium stations at all hours, the plan seriously neglects the safety of the public.

The RTBU's position is that all 78 premium stations must be staffed at a minimum. Premium stations are the busiest on the network. To think that a train would stop there in the dead of the night with no skilled staff to assist is absurd.

The mere presence of customer service officers and other station staff on platforms at all hours of night on weekends would alleviate commuters' fears about travelling home after dark.

The RTBU has been calling on the government to include station staff in the trial for some months, but this has been ignored so they can roll out the trial cheaply.

It is clear that the proposal put forward by PTV has no consideration given to adequate staffing levels. This is a lamentable attitude coming from a government that pledged to introduce a 24 hour transport regime befitting a world-class public transport system.

Either the Victorian Government and stakeholders must give due consideration to staffing stations at all hours under Homesafe, or the policy threatens to come undone before it has even been implemented.

The RTBU regards Homesafe as the future of public transport in Victoria, and we want to make it work to the best extent possible for our members and the travelling public however rolling out this policy on the cheap will see a sub-standard result which the RTBU refuses to support.

There is clearly much discussion still to occur with PTV, the company and the Government.

**Luba Grigorovitch**  
State Secretary

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# METRO OPERATIONS EA UPDATE



**Grant Wainwright**  
Organiser

The Rally for a Fair Deal, held 4 September, was a resounding success, grabbing Metro,

Government and media attention. Your voices were heard – but now the company must listen. RTBU members will not stand to have working conditions eroded and must not be treated with contempt.

Since our 4 hour stoppage, representatives from the Rail Operations and Locomotive

Division have met with the Senior management at Metro, including the CEO Mr Andrew Lezala to progress negotiations and demand a fair offer be tabled that addresses the important issues for our members.

Metro's latest offer fails once again to address key issues such as Homesafe, rostering arrangements and the dispute resolution procedure, leaving many clauses to be rectified.

The current pay offer stands to be 14% over four years, however current outstanding issues are still predominantly around conditions. Metro also want to make a 3% one off payment for members to accept Homesafe requirements, however the

Union is yet to hear any detail about what the company plans to do. Metro has since given a commitment to finally commence consultation for Homesafe from next week. We expect that this will assist in bargaining.

Metro have also now committed to the engagement of a third party to assist in the bargaining process, with discussions kicking off this morning. These negotiations are scheduled to continue next week and members will be kept updated about significant developments.

If you have any questions about your EA or protected industrial action please call your local Union delegates, Organiser or the RTBU office on **9600 3030**.

## V-LINE REGIONAL VISITS



**Jamie Porter**  
Organiser

The V/Line Operations EA negotiations have been underway for 2 months. Six meetings have been

held with RTBU's bargaining team and V/Line management.

Both RTBU's and V/Lines log of claims have been exchanged and many of the claims have been discussed in detail.

In the coming months I will be working around every line of V/Line to give an update to all members.

### Updates will include:

- EA negotiations
- RTBU Log of claims
- Union General business

A week's prior notice will be provided through the RTBU Express as to which line and stations I will be visiting, if you are not on shift and unable to make it to a station, please feel free to leave questions with members that are on shift so all relevant information can be fed back.

For further information, please give me a ring on **0403 863 869**.



### Contact us

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