

RTBU EXPRESS

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

UNITED WE STAND - DIVIDED WE BEG



**Luba
Grigorovitch**
State Secretary

Members in the Workshop Division would be aware of the recent proposal from Metro to drive trains. I thank each and every

member who has remained united against this proposal. This campaign has been a joint effort. As members know, the Locomotive Divisional Secretary Marc Marotta and Assistant Secretary Jim Chrysostomou, Workshops Organiser Bryan Evans and myself have now completed a series of visits at every Metro Workshop and Metro Driver Depots in a bid to encourage members to remain united and stand together against the proposal put forward by Metro management to have maintenance members drive trains. Our message is simple:

Unless you are a qualified driver do not put your hand up to drive trains.

Driving belongs to Drivers – it is that simple. The RTBU is entirely against the notion of one grade stealing work from another grade. If we were to agree with this it would only be after full consultation and agreement has been made with the Locomotive Division. This has not happened to date and consequently the Workshop Division of the RTBU is standing shoulder to shoulder with the Locomotive Division.

We are one Union, and we will stand as one. ■

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

NOT QUALIFIED TO DRIVE?

Metro want maintenance staff to drive trains, but aren't willing to train them or pay them properly.

JUST SAY NO!

Do not **undercut** your comrades.
Do not **volunteer** until negotiations are complete.

JUST SAY NO!



Authorised by RTBU Secretary Luba Grigorovitch, Level 2, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000.

UPCOMING RTBU WOMEN'S MEETINGS

Tuesday February 10 - Southern Cross Station, 10.30 am

Tuesday March 10 - RTBU State Office, 2/365 Queen St Melbourne, 10.30 am

For further info, contact Women's Office Kath Larkin on 0420 273 939

RTBU
The power of Union

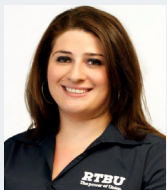
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A CASUAL AFFAIR



Rima Tawil
Industrial Officer



Paul Ferraro
Organiser

The RTBU is currently in dispute with Metro in the Infrastructure Division over the use of supplementary labour without consultation with the RTBU and in breach of the Metro Trains Infrastructure Division Enterprise Agreement 2012 (EA).

The EA sets out a process that Metro must follow for the engagement of supplementary labour which includes consultation with the unions and an obligation to consider training where practical prior to the engagement of supplementary labour.

Following the use of contractor OSO's on the BRIP project without prior consultation with the RTBU, the issue was placed in dispute and an urgent meeting was scheduled

with local management to address this serious issue.

At this meeting Metro agreed to cease the use of contractor OSO's on the BRIP project and to mark contractors on the registrar as "unauthorised." It was agreed that if supplementary labour is to be used on this project or any other project or works in future, then Metro is committed to consulting with the RTBU prior to the engagement of labour hire in accordance with the EA provision.

Shortly after this meeting, the RTBU became aware that Metro had again engaged supplementary labour without consultation with the Union over the weekend that had past. This pattern of behaviour in breach of the EA process is unacceptable and the dispute now involves the use of supplementary labour across the whole infrastructure area.

We have requested a list of all supplementary labour engaged by Metro in the Infrastructure and projects areas where Metro has not consulted with the RTBU

and followed the process in the EA and will remain committed to following this up.

The RTBU stands firmly against the use of supplementary labour when work could and should be performed by Metro employees. The EA makes it clear that the engagement of supplementary is to be used to support the existing employees and not to reduce the workforce numbers.

If there is an ongoing issue of shortage of labour then surely this is a clear indication to Metro that they need to start increasing their workforce numbers in this area. Metro should start by filling those positions which remain vacant. This should be the priority and this is what the RTBU will continue to fight for.

In the more immediate term, Metro need to also still consider offering overtime hours to existing employees, start talking about investment in training and secondment opportunities before turning to supplementary labour.

It's time Metro ended its casual affair. ■

THIS MARCH 4, STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

On March 4, rallies organised by the Australian union movement will be held across the country in opposition to the Abbott Government's unprecedented attacks on working people.

These rallies promise to be the biggest mobilisation of opposition to the Abbott Government's anti-worker policies since the highly successful "Bust the Budget" rallies held in July last year, which put union and community opposition to Abbott and Hockey's harsh austerity Budget measures front and centre of the national debate.

While the Bust the Budget rallies helped to ensure that the worst elements of the Coalition's Budget were blocked by the combined Labor opposition and Senate crossbench, the Federal Coalition's attacks on working Australians are far from over.

2015 will see the unveiling of the Abbott Government's so-called Productivity Commission, a body which they have effectively tasked with rewriting workplace conditions in Australia.

Some of the areas of industrial relations that the Productivity Commission has been asked to "look into" by the Coalition are:

- Penalty rates (including weekend, overtime and public holiday pay)
- The minimum wage
- Unfair dismissal protections

- Protections from workplace bullying and harassment
- Basic working conditions

Make no mistake, all of these conditions are in the firing line. Abbott, Joe Hockey and their ilk have made it their mission since day 1 of taking office to go after the most basic rights and conditions that working people in Australia enjoy today. The only way we can beat back these attacks and make this a 1 term government - no matter who leads it - is by continuing to make our opposition heard loud and clear.

I strongly encourage all RTBU members to join us for the Fight for Your Rights rally on Wednesday March 4, starting at 10 am at Victorian Trades Hall on 54 Victoria Street. Bring your workmates, your family, your friends and your voices. We hope to see you all there. ■

Contact us

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Admin and Salaried Division
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Admin & Salaried Division
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