

RTBU EXPRESS

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UNIONS PUSH TOWARDS TRUTH IN BARGAINING LEGISLATION

Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

Being an affiliate of the ALP gives unions like ours the ability to shape Labor policy in favour of our members' interests. It is also vital to sustain Labor as a party that genuinely represents the interests of working people in office.



The ALP held its 2015 National Conference on the weekend of July 24-26. National Conference is where delegates from across the ALP come together once every three years to debate and vote on policy which will be carried out by Labor when it is next in federal government. The RTBU sent a delegation of officials from across Australia to the National Conference this year.

I was very proud to help move a motion committing Federal Labor to legislate for 'truth in bargaining' measures when next in office. Truth in bargaining means that when workers undertake enterprise bargaining with their employers, the latter will be obliged to open up their books if they rely on commercial in confidence information to refuse a wage claim. This will greatly strengthen unions like ours in future bargaining rounds and deny employers the loophole provided by a lack of transparency which they have exploited too often in the past. Truth in bargaining legislation will be a major innovation in Australia's industrial relations system.

I spoke to the motion that was put and said that in the past, the labour movement has seen far too many examples of companies crying poor to their workers in bargaining, while boasting about rivers of gold to their shareholders. This is exactly

why we need tough laws, to compel employers to declare the real state of their finances, legislated into our industrial relations system as a matter of urgency. Our Union's National Secretary, Bob Narva is to be commended for his hard work in putting the truth in bargaining resolution together, as is Labor's Shadow Industrial Relations Minister, Brendan O'Connor for undertaking to implement truth in bargaining as Labor Party policy.

Thanks to the crucial presence and hard yards of industrial trade unions like ours on conference floor and behind the scenes, a number of other vital resolutions were passed at conference committing Labor to progressive policies that will benefit working people. These included motions committing Labor in government to:

Protecting Australian jobs by:

- Guaranteeing safeguards for local jobs in the China Free
- Trade Agreement Creating a more equitable tax system by legislating a "Buffett Rule" - ie that the minimum tax rate paid by millionaires should not be less than that of low income-earners
- Implementing paid domestic violence of up to 10 days for all workers
- Support for Australia's shipping industry
- Guaranteeing 50 percent of Australia's energy is delivered by renewables by 2030.

This represents the most progressive industrial policy agenda achieved at an ALP National Conference in over 30 years. Our comrades in the CFMEU, AMWU, MUA and TWU deserve mention for making these outcomes possible. While our unions share some differences of opinion, we showed a true unity of purpose in championing these outcomes on the weekend.

Our voice doesn't stop at National Conference. The mandate secured by the union movement within Labor represents our best chance at undoing the damage wrought on working

Australians by Abbott Government and continue our movement's work of building a fairer and more equitable Australia.

While the Coalition Government continues to stagger from crisis to crisis and have much of its extreme conservative legislative agenda left in tatters, we need to ensure we continue to work hard at making Abbott's mob a one-term federal government.

From now until the next election day and there after, we must work to ensure Labor stays true to the platform arrived at National Conference and follows through on a fair industrial agenda when next in power. The political wheel turns but the RTBU stands ready to fight for your rights at work no matter who is in power.

Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

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

RTBU
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Operations | Infrastructure | Workshops | Salaried
rtbuvic.com.au | (03) 9600 3030

Level 2, 365 Queen Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000 **E** rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au **F** 03 9600 3363



LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD – METRO INFRASTRUCTURE EA



Bryan Evans
Organiser

With the RTBU covering the majority of union members in the Metro Infrastructure Division, one would assume that recent management reports of 'overall support'

for a 2% pay rise in exchange for the signing of the

MOU must have had the support from a majority of the RTBU membership. This was simply not the case!

RTBU members remained united and acted as one, unanimously rejecting the proposal.

The RTBU can now continue to push forward in good faith to negotiate a replacement EA. Rosters and classifications remain front and center during bargaining and RTBU members will be in a strong position to negotiate around significant roster changes expected with the

proposed 24 hour rail operations on weekends (HomeSafe) announced to commence 1 January 2016.

To progress negotiations the RTBU has requested that Metro come clean on their desired changes and begin discussions to iron out concerns around proposed changes. Metro has promised to provide this information over the course of the next fortnight and delegates meetings to discuss all the details have subsequently been scheduled.

SHAME METRO



Darren Galea
Organiser

Members would be aware that on a daily basis the Union has a number of battles, wins, successes and failures with each and every company within the industry.

The majority of these items are dealt with but go unannounced. No mention needed, they are simply us fighting the good fight and doing our job. However, this time we feel it is important to call the company out.

29 days after the Metro Trains Rail Operations Enterprise Agreement (EA) had expired, your Union Organisers saw it fitting to hold a mass report back meeting to update delegates on the status of negotiations with Metro.

Despite the RTBU providing Metro with over one week's notice, to Metro's absolute shame, at the twelfth hour they took it upon themselves to instruct management not to release ANY delegates for the update meeting.

The RTBU has had an agreement in place for many years that delegates would be released pending the operational requirements of the company to attend these important meetings. This delegates EA update meeting was solely that, a meeting to update members with where we are at with negotiations for a replacement EA so that this message could be taken back to the broader membership on top of member notices and RTBU Express EA updates.

For a company that claims to be bargaining in good faith we must question their motives. The meeting went ahead, and I thank each and every delegate that came in their own time.

At this meeting we had some very promising discussion about the way forward for the Metro Operations EA, as well as the message going forward for the entire membership.

The next meeting for Delegates covered by the Metro Operations EA will be held at the RTBU on Monday 10 August at 11am.

I encourage all delegates to be in attendance as all future meetings are very important.

If you have any queries or questions in relation to the EA please feel free to call me on 0407512494.

THE END OF AN ERA: MELBOURNE STEEL TERMINAL



Grant Wainwright
Organiser

On Friday 31st of July, the last shifts of Melbourne Steel Terminal (MST) were worked by loyal RTBU members. The work currently being performed at the

Melbourne Steel Terminal has been transferred back to the contract holders, Pacific National at the Melbourne Freight Terminal, Dynon Road.

The RTBU has a proud tradition of organising at the site of the current Melbourne MST, with Organisers including the great Trevor Dobbyn, Tony Massaria and John Higgins having once organised this site. The site has been earmarked for property development and will probably have a couple of apartment monstrosities being erected by the end of the year.

The RTBU wishes our members from the MST all the best for the future and hope that their endeavours in gaining further employment in the rail industry are successful and thank them for their loyalty to the RTBU cause over the many years. Luba Grigorovitch and myself visited the site on the 31st of July to personally thank the members themselves.



Contact us

rtbuvic.com.au
(03) 9600 3030

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au
F 03 9600 3363

State Secretary
Luba Grigorovitch

Rail Operations / Administration
Organiser: Grant Wainwright

Infrastructure Division
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

Industrial Officer
Rima Tawil

Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire
Organiser: Bryan Evans

