

# RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch  
**VOL 11 | Issue 5 | 3 May Friday 2024**



**Vik Sharma**

State Secretary

## REGIONAL RAIL FIGHT PAYS DIVIDENDS

Following a long fought campaign that showed V/Line and Government the resolve of RTBU members, an in-principle agreement has been reached for the V/Line Rail Operations Enterprise Agreement (EA).

This comes following 7 statewide stoppages including a rally outside V/Line head office where members showed their strength and had their voices heard.

A meeting of RTBU delegates from across the network voted overwhelmingly in support of the proposed deal which will now undergo intensive drafting before members will vote to implement the agreement.

The agreement delivers:

- **Industry standard pay increase** – 17% over 4 years
- **Additional 2% Cash Payment**
- **Job Security including commitments booking offices will not close and a conductor must be on every revenue service**
- **Improved Leave Entitlements**
- **Bonus Days** – 5 extra days off in addition to the current leave entitlements
- **Improved Parental Leave**

- **Improved Trauma Leave** – now will be paid as per roster including any agreed overtime
- **NEW Natural Disaster Leave**
- **Increased Night Shift Allowance**
- **Novated Leases**
- **Improved Roster Change Process allows members to design their own roster**
- **Introduction of first Classification Structure that protects jobs by detailing duties, competencies and prerequisites.**
- **Internal Recruitment and Transfers**
- **Guaranteed minimum hours for part-time employees**
- **Public Holiday Availability Payment regardless of availability. Required standby staff reduced to 20% from 100% to be rostered equally**
- **Retirement Travel Pass Reinstated**
- **Redeployment due to medical incapacity**
- **Job security through training opportunities and tighter requirements for redeployment**
- **NEW Grievance Procedure**

- **Improvements to Flexible Working Arrangements**
- **Ability to cash out annual leave in 1 day increments**

Other changes include protections for current staff and formalisation of multi sign on locations for new staff currently possible under the EA and frameworks defined for managing new V/Line and Government initiatives.

Online and on-the-job meetings are being organised to provide members with more detail and answer any queries you may have.

This outcome was made possible through your actions and determination to stand up and demand what is fair. Congratulations to all members who have taken an active role and supported this campaign to secure a fair and solid EA.

**Vik Sharma**  
Victorian Branch Secretary



**Darren Galea**

Divisional Secretary - Rail Operations Division



# HUGE BACKPAY AND NEW CLASSIFICATION FOR MEMBER AT METRO

The RTBU has secured a backpay in the tens of thousands and a new ongoing classification with an annual pay grade over \$30k higher following a dispute about the application of the acting in higher clause at Metro.

The acting in higher clause states that a worker who completes 6 months acting in a higher position will gain the personal classification of the higher position on an ongoing basis. After several months of formal dispute and pending hearing at the fair Work Commission, the matter was eventually resolved through an agreed settlement.

It marks one of the highest personal backpay amounts and boost to personal classification for an acting in higher matter.

It is a good reminder for all members to stay up to date with the provisions of the new

agreement. While this matter was initiated under the old agreement for the purpose of pursuing the backpay, the new acting in higher clause is an improvement on the old one.

If you are currently acting in a higher position, be sure to check the clause in your Agreement. V/Line has a similar clause and other EAs across the rail industry also contain this provision.

As a first port of call, your RTBU Delegate and Organiser can provide advice and support with acting in higher. In this matter, the local delegate was instrumental in supporting the member and escalating this dispute to resolution.

We're currently examining several other similar cases that we will pursue in the near future. More to come on this.

Most importantly, only the RTBU has the power, knowledge and legitimacy to bring and win these

kinds of disputes. In addition to the increased pay rises and improved conditions that we've secured through bargaining, this is another example of how it pays to be a RTBU member.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda Swayn and Callen Parsons from our Industrial Team, on their hard work and dedication to achieving the best possible outcomes for Members in each and every case they take on.



## HOME LOANS & FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ALL RTBU MEMBERS



### WE CAN HELP WITH

- TAILORED & PERSONAL SERVICE
- INVESTMENT & SUPER ADVICE
- MORTGAGE & LENDING
- CASHFLOW & RETIREMENT PLANS
- PROPERTY EVALUATION
- LIFE INSURANCE

SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE & MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY!

DREAMSTREET.COM.AU | 1300 230 240 | INFO@DREAMSTREET.COM.AU

**Contact us**

**rtbuvic.com.au**  
**(03) 8630 9100**

Level 2, 365 Queen Street,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000

E [rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au](mailto:rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au)  
F 03 8630 9122

**Branch Secretary**

Vik Sharma

**Infrastructure Division**

Secretary: Jon Saw

**Admin & Salaried Division**

President: Victor Moore  
Secretary: John Nicolopolous

**Rail Operations Division**

Secretary: Darren Galea

**Workshops Division**

Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

**Infrastructure, Workshops & Labour Hire**

Organiser: Bryan Evans  
Organiser: Joe Dennis

**Industrial Officer**

Amanda Swayn  
Callen Parsons

**Operations & Admin  
Organiser**

Sally van Bragt  
David Paton



@rtbuvic



/RTBUvic/

