

RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

METRO TARGETS CLIFTON HILL LINE TODAY, AND WHERE TOMORROW?

Recently I became aware that Metro has conjured up a plan to centralise control desks throughout the Clifton Hill station group following new contracts between the State Government, Public Transport Victoria and Metro Trains. This decision has been made without consultation with the RTBU and will have serious direct and indirect consequences to members.

The direct consequences will be the loss of roughly 30 jobs at Reservoir station, Clifton Hill station, Eltham station and Heidelberg station. These jobs are full-time, well paid and a significant part of their community.

Other consequences of the closures include a decrease in security and safety at stations along the line and a decrease in upskilling for staff. We also expect to see wider impacts on morale at the stations.

The indirect consequences are just as serious and have implications for us all. In making this decision without consultation, Metro has blatantly breached the Metro Trains Melbourne Rail Operations Agreement 2015–2019 (the Agreement). This constitutes a complete disregard for the industrial relations system and sets a dangerous precedent for future behaviour from Metro with regard to the law.

Metro cannot be allowed to unilaterally make major changes to our members employment. This is why we are fighting back and insisting that the laws and protections that we have in place be abided by.

The RTBU has written to Metro notifying them that this issue is now formally in dispute. This means that they cannot progress any of their changes until the dispute is resolved. I have also written to the State Public Transport Minister pointing out that the State Government's policy is to avoid job cuts and redundancies and that this situation makes a mockery of that commitment.

I am told that the Minister is currently on leave but I have requested that she meet with me at her earliest available opportunity so that I can explain the serious consequences this situation has on our members.

The Minister and Metro ought to be concerned about the welfare of our members who are reporting that they are stressed about their job security. However, if they choose to disregard the impact on people, we will call them out on their behavior loudly and publicly.

Having visited Reservoir Station and Clifton Hill Station last week, with meetings scheduled at Eltham and Heidelberg Station this week I am pleased to see the membership active and ready for the fight which lies ahead.

As per usual, this battle will not be an easy one to win, however the first step is remaining united in the fight. We must continue to defend our hard-won rights and conditions to ensure the future of the Rail industry remains strong.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

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Control Desks Under Threat

Motion passed at a number of stations:

1. That this meeting endorses the letter sent by the Branch Secretary of the RTBU concerning the Control Desks in the Metro Trains Melbourne Clifton Hill stations group. We demand that Metro management respond to and address all our concerns.
2. That this meeting, as a result of Metro management's response (letter dated 09/01/18) which fails to seriously and adequately address our concerns, declares a dispute as under the dispute settlement provisions of the EA including the status quo provisions. This meeting instructs the Branch Secretary to formally put this matter in dispute and to take all measures as necessary.
3. That this meeting calls on support from other station staff including other control desk locations in other groups and support from other grades within the rail industry.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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Bryan Evans

Organiser

PROGRESS RAIL TAKE OVER LEAVES UNION MEMBERS IN LIMBO

On 21 November 2017, Downer announced the sale of its freight rail business to Progress Rail, a subsidiary of Caterpillar. Over the last several weeks the RTBU, ETU and AMWU have been involved in multiple consultation meetings with management about the transmission of business and it has become clear at this stage that the company plan on rolling out forced redundancies, which would leave 28 members from Newport without jobs.

As it stands, Downer have ample redeployment opportunities on the horizon in coming months with High Capacity Metro Trains (HCMT) requiring approximately 170 jobs and Yarra Tram works requiring an additional 41. Despite this, the company is yet to provide the 100% commitment that all members will be successfully redeployed and that it is their intention to finalise the transition by the end of January. This leaves a gap of several months that will need to be bridged to ensure members are treated fairly, retain their continuity of service and are not financially disadvantaged by the sale. The Union's position is that all redundancies should be strictly voluntary and none should be forced.

There will be more negotiations occurring in the coming weeks that should resolve these outstanding issues. If however that proves impossible, the RTBU will stand up, as we always have, and fight for justice.

V/Line's "New vision for training"

Members from V/Line would be aware of V/Line's plans to amend your EA. In an unprecedented attack on conditions current V/Line CEO and former Metro Trains Melbourne Manager Mr James Pinder has unilaterally decided it's time to change the V/Line Rail Operations Enterprise Agreement (EA) 2015-2019.

Mr Pinder wrote to the Union and advised that the company will delete and change clauses in the belief that the membership will endorse the list of demands through a vote on a new EA.

The Union only became aware of this attempt to ram through changes on 5 January 2018 and to date the company has not involved the Union or negotiated any potential changes.

The price of the proposed changes is far too great of an adverse impact to the membership. We have to send a clear message to management that this is a price we are not willing to pay.

Mass meetings have commenced with the V/Line membership. Along with meetings that have already occurred with the Locomotive Division, a list of further meetings across the regions are listed below. All members from any grade are encouraged to attend.

We do not support these changes.

United We Stand and United We Fight!

RTBU Midsumma Pride March Delegation

Sunday 28 January 2018

**Assemble at 1.30pm
at the corner of
Lakeside Drive
& Fitzroy Street
St Kilda.**

RTBU Member Meetings regarding V/Line's "new vision for training"

Date	Day	Location	Time
17/01/18	Wednesday	Seymour	12:30pm
18/01/18	Thursday	Geelong	11:00am
19/01/18	Friday	Southern Cross (Shunters)	12:30pm
29/01/18	Monday	Traralgon	13:00pm
30/01/18	Tuesday	Southern Cross (Meal Room Under Pod)	12:00pm
31/01/18	Wednesday	Bendigo	13:00pm
31/01/18	Wednesday	Ballarat	18:00pm

Contact us

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Luba Grigorovitch

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Admin & Salaried Division
Secretary: Steven Kozmevski

Rail Operations Division
Organiser: Darren Galea

Admin & Salaried Division
Organiser: Cathy Birch

Workshops Division
Secretary: Paul Jumpertz

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

Industrial Officer
Alice Dunn

**Rail Operations /
Administration**
Organiser: Joe Maisano

