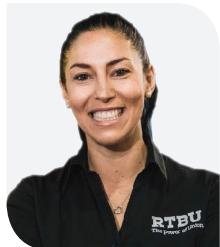


RTBU EXPRESS



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

State Secretary

METRO OPERATIONS EA UPDATE

As Members know, Metro is trying to use legal technicalities to stop RTBU members from taking protected industrial action.

It is hard enough for any workers in Australia to take protected industrial action, let alone public transport workers. But Metro is not happy with that.

When the RTBU moved to keep the passenger barriers open at train stations in order to hurt Metro's profits, but not commuters, Metro's lawyers went to court to successfully argue this wasn't industrial action under the industrial legislation. How ridiculous that under the legislation actions like that by union members is not categorised as industrial action!

So Metro got a court order that the ban not go ahead and the RTBU made sure it didn't. Was Metro happy with that? No!

Then Metro's lawyers alleged that the RTBU had not fully complied with other parts of the court order such as getting a notice to members up on noticeboards at all train

stations by 4pm the next day, a Saturday!

Through its lawyers Metro is threatening the RTBU that if the union and its members take industrial action it will not be protected because of the alleged inconsequential breaches of the order.

If industrial action is not protected under our broken industrial relations system, the union and its members are potentially exposed to legal claims by Metro for millions of dollars in lost revenue.

It is interesting that Metro is using the same lawyers that represented Patrick Stevedores in the huge waterfront dispute 20 years ago.

On 4 September the RTBU lodged an urgent Federal Court application to clear away the uncertainty about whether we can take protected industrial action which Metro is exploiting.

This is being heard by Justice O'Callaghan at the Federal Court of Australia on Thursday 19 September 2019.

Workers have no other weapon than industrial action to try to persuade big corporations to agree to fair and decent wages and conditions. That is because our broken industrial system allows employers to refuse to agree to anything in these negotiations.

Every worker, every commuter, every Australian should be outraged at Metro's threats and attacks on the wages and conditions and democratic rights of public transport workers.

We must stand united in this fight against another greedy multi-national company set on attacking our hard-won conditions!

We have done a number of workplace visits over the last few weeks and will continue to keep members up to date accordingly.

United We Stand.

Luba Grigorovitch

- State Secretary

Delegate Meeting Dates – October 2019

- **2 October** – Wilson Security - 1300 to 1400hrs
- **2 October** – MMAOs - B&D Delegates - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **8 October** – Metro Central - (MCE) - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **9 October** – Metro Caulfield - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **9 October** – Hawthorn AOs - A & B Delegates - 1200 to 1300hrs
- **10 October** – Malvern AOs - A & B Delegates - 1000 to 1100hrs
- **11 October** – Probe (PTV Call Centre) - 1000 to 1100hrs
- **16 October** – Metro Northern / Clifton Hill - Nth Melbourne - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **16 October** – North Melbourne AOs - B & C Delegates - 1000 to 1100hrs
- **16 October** – TPH AOs - B & C Delegates - 1200 to 1300hrs
- **17 October** – V/Line Southern Cross - 1000 to 1100hrs
- **23 October** – Metro Burnley - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **23 October** – Metro NSS / CCTV - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **24 October** – Pacific National - 1500 to 1600hrs
- **28 October** – V/Line Eastern - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **29 October** – TfV (Transport for Victoria) - 1400 to 1500hrs
- **30 October** – V/Line Central - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **30 October** – V/Line Shunters - Geelong - 1100 to 1200hrs
- **31 October** – Metrol, Timetables, Rosters & Signallers - 1000 to 1200hrs

RTBU
The power of Union

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Bryan Evans
Organiser

FRESH BLOOD IN INFRASTRUCTURE, ROLLINGSTOCK & LABOUR HIRE

Over the last five years, the Infrastructure, Rollingstock and Labour Hire Divisions have been going from strength to strength. We have never covered as many agreements, sites and companies as we do today and with Yarra Trams Infrastructure and Workshop members also requesting to be represented by Luba and myself specifically, we have never been as flat chat, or as strong as we are now.

As timing would have it, 2019 has also played host to our major bargaining round which tends to tie up officials for several days a week in intensive negotiations with all the major companies across the network, in other words, we are getting rather thin on the ground.

To accommodate this, Joe Dennis from the Admin and Operations Division is going to be moving into the Infrastructure, Rollingstock and

Labour Hire space to help out around the traps.

Joe has been organising for the RTBU for close to 12 months and will be making the transition over to Infrastructure, Rollingstock and Labour Hire over the coming weeks. This will allow our Division to better organise areas where we have inherent problems and whip it into the disciplined fighting force required to fight for the rights of RTBU members.

Joe will initially be working front and centre of the Safeworking, Labour Hire and V/Line Infrastructure EA campaigns, which are rapidly coming to a head. He will also be involved in general business and representations across the network in Infrastructure, Rollingstock and Labour Hire.

We have accomplished a lot in the last several years and have achieved excellent

results across the Metro Infrastructure and Rollingstock agreements. We have finally reached a level of consistency across all Tier 1 Infrastructure agreements, we have won bonus days at Gemco, and rail industry increases at Alstom in Ballarat, just to name a few.

A second Organiser in these Division's will allow us to capitalise on these wins in other sections of Rail and all in all be a better union for our wider membership.

Members from Infrastructure, Rollingstock and Labour Hire are advised to contact Joe Dennis on 0403 863 869 or myself if you need assistance. Joe will be out and about introducing himself, so make sure you say g'day!



Joe Dennis
Organiser

METRO'S TRAIN SERVICE OFFICERS (TSO'S)

Metro Trains' Train Service Officers (TSO's) have been based at 700 Collins Street for quite some time now. The location is suitable to the role that TSO's perform and there are approximately 13 TSO's who attend everything from a minor disruption to fatalities.

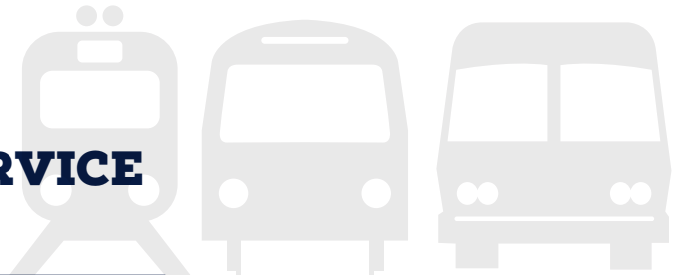
In the past few months Metro have discussed a move of the TSO's to 595 Collins Street to be on the same floor as Metrol. This move has not been explained to anyone as to why it is needed. The TSO's are confused, and management have now thrown a new roster into the works.

TSO's have expressed concern to the RTBU about the move and have attempted to explain their concerns to their managers. These concerns are around having access to a quiet space to attend after a fatality, car parking, meal area and desk space to name a few. At 700 Collins Street they have access to staff to

assist in dealing with fatalities, members also have access to several different managers to discuss upcoming works and special events.

At this time Metro management seemed it fitting that they would also throw a roster change into the mix as well. Members contacted the union and we were able to begin negotiations to address concerns moving into a new building, and consulting on a new roster. Two members were chosen to assist in these meetings to discuss any issues moving forward.

As you could appreciate the TSO's have one of the most important roles in the rail network and it is a job that not just anyone can do. In the coming weeks I'm sure that these members will receive all that they require to perform their roles and keep the network moving.



Update your details

Have you moved house, change jobs, phone numbers or emails recently?

With Enterprise Agreement negotiations for all of the major operators occurring this year, it is important that your details are up to date so that you receive updates about your Enterprise Agreement.

Email rtbu@rtbuvic.com.au or call 8630 9100 to update your details.

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