

RTBU EXPRESS

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Luba Grigorovitch

State Secretary

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE RULES

The RTBU recently stood alongside 1200 union leaders, organisers and rank and file members as the new ACTU Secretary Sally McManus launched the movement-wide campaign to change the rules that are holding back working people, and to fight to bring fairness back to Australia. Our job is to look after our members, and to do that better we need the rules to change. The Industrial Relations system, with the Fair Work Act is too restrictive, too harsh and too pro-employer. These are the rules that we want to change. These are the rules that need to change.

On behalf of all workers, as a union movement, we are creating a 'log of claims' for conditions that should be standard across all industries.

The trap of casualization has affected many workers for a long time now, and more and more we are beginning to see its effects on our own members. Casual employees, who have worked on a regular basis for six months deserve the right to choose to convert to permanent work. For too long our laws have not properly defined casual employment. Working people have the right to stable, permanent jobs.

As a union, the RTBU have also supported the Transport Workers Union as food delivery riders have come together to take a stand against unfair pay and unsafe conditions. Classing workers as individual contractors has seen

people paid below minimum wage, denied access to workers' compensation, denied sick leave, superannuation, access to unfair dismissal and denied the benefits of collective bargaining. Everyone deserves these rights.

Labour hire needs a complete overhaul. Labour hire companies simply rent out workers for lower pay and less job security. It's got to stop. We need to completely overhaul labour hire companies by creating a national labour hire licensing system to ensure they are not cutting wages and conditions.

These workers need protection from unfair dismissal by the host employer, and the ability to bargain with the company so they can win fair pay rises and gain secure work.

We need to end the uncapped temporary working visa system. The government is shipping in exploitation and taking job opportunities for locals through its temporary visa system and it needs to end. The system should favour permanent migration and local employment. Temporary visas should only be used for genuine shortages, with strong

protections against abuse.

We must invest in quality skills for the future. Privatising vocational education and training has been a disaster. We must rebuild the funding for schools, TAFE and universities, and better educate the workers of the future.

The government is negotiating "free trade" agreements that sell out Australian jobs. We must only enter into agreements which defend and improve wages and job security. They should not be able to bypass our laws regarding the movement of people just for the benefit of corporations.

The government is using our money to buy from overseas, when they should be buying local. Rewrite the Commonwealth Procurement Rules to ensure that the government hires directly and locally, and prefers local businesses which pay fairly and provide secure jobs.

As many of our members know, the majority of working people have a responsibility to care for children, sick relatives, or an elderly parent. We need to change the rules so people have the right to part time or reduced hours.

Plus, workers deserve the right to return to work when their caring responsibilities have ended.

Too many people in Australia have no job security. They can no longer predict or plan their lives. Having a job you can count on is a foundation of the Australian way of life. The rules must be changed so jobs with basic security and rights can be restored.

People around the country are ready to take action to change the rules and win more secure jobs and fair pay rises. They know big business has too much power, and they know that when working people join together we are mighty and unbreakable. The trade union movement is almost 2 million members strong; we have the power to send a message that we will no longer stand for broken rules.

The "Change the Rules" rally will be the largest mobilisation of working people since the Your Rights at Work campaign more than a decade ago. The RTBU calls on all of our **off roster members** to hit the streets **on Wednesday 9 May. Meet the RTBU at 9am** at the RTBU Office.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary





Joe Maisano

Organiser

ADDITIONAL HOURS IN METRO STATIONS

It has recently been brought to my attention that some part time staff do not want to work the additional hours rostered for coverage relating to annual leave, vacancy, long term absenteeism, planned occupations and special events.

The concerns raised are around part time staff checking their rosters and finding that the rosters have been amended last

minute without notification. This is often causing distress to the individual staff member as they have not allocated time for this in their personal lives.

Some members are not afraid to speak up for themselves and approach their supervisor to decline the additional hours. Others however are reluctant to approach their supervisors in fear that it may affect them in the

future with getting extra hours. There is also fear than any form of rebellion may become a problem in the future when they are going for a full-time job.

Regardless of the reasons, no member should feel this way. If you want the extra hours that is fine and if you do not want the extra hours that is okay as well.

This is not saying all supervisors

follow this kind of mythology. If any shifts in the working rosters is different to the master roster, then the individual staff member requires to be notified by the supervising officer.

If you require advice or assistance, feel free to call me on 0421122 437.

VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET SUMMARY

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR RAIL

- \$313m Stage 2 Shepparton Upgrade ultimately put VLocity on the line (9 services a day)
- \$130m Track & Signal Upgrades – Maryborough & Ararat Lines with scope to return passenger services to Dunolly. This will enable future expansion of passenger rail to Ararat and Maryborough
- \$50m for detailed planning of High Speed Rail link to Geelong and Airport Rail (including rail hub in the west)
- \$10.8m for more rail services, better connectivity and less crowding (Seymour and Wyndham Vale)
- \$172.9 New train stabling and maintenance facilities on regional network, including upgrade of Southern Cross Yard to house 87 new carriages already under order
- \$15.8m to finalise design and procurement for new regional trains to replace classic fleet
- \$103.5m for 30 additional X'Trapolis carriages to be built at Alstom Ballarat
- \$26.2m for V/Line service delivery standards – sustainability, reliability and punctuality the focus
- 10 minute services Cranbourne/Packenham from 7:00pm-10:00pm (once LXR project complete)
- \$89.4m to extend and add more services on the South Morang line to Mernda and additional services Hurstbridge and Dandenong lines following completion of upgrades and LX removals
- \$23.8m to complete City Loop Fire and Life Safety Project
- \$12.3m to upgrade South Yarra Station
- \$16.3m to improve accessibility to train stations including Essendon and Watergardens
- \$571.5m for power & signalling upgrades from city to Cranbourne/Packenham – plan for duplication of Cranbourne line and work to enable HCMT to Sunbury
- More parking at stations (2000) including Belgrave, Sandown Park, Sunbury, Epping & Cragieburn
- Funding commitment to sustain V/Line classic fleet
- \$3m to plan and design the Caulfield-Monash tram lines
- \$1m to develop a business case for active transport and tram connections between Fishermans Bend and the CBD
- \$16.9m for safety and security initiatives including more CCTV across the network

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Organiser: Bryan Evans

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