

RTBU EXPRESS



The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Vik Sharma
State Secretary

V/LINE STRIKE HITS STRONG!

In a show of strength, members across V/Line operations brought the network to a halt on Wednesday to advance claims in EA negotiations.

The action saw stoppages between 3am-7am with consequences across the state into the afternoon.

Fed up with V/Line's poor management practices, members have sent a powerful message to V/Line bosses – WE run the network. Disrespect us at your peril!

The action had broad impact that has been felt where it matters most. Saturated media coverage across newspapers, radio and TV news reached all Victorian regions and even

the national broadcasts as we told the story of RTBU members fighting for fairness at work.

V/Line have continuously refused to accept core union claims that tackle job security, work-life balance, and fairness of process across the organisation. Industrial action is the only language that they understand.

A big congratulations to all members involved directly in the action and those supporting the resumption of services after the action. You have made your first mark in the campaign to get what you deserve!

The RTBU will continue to stand with members as we push for the best possible agreement that ensures members get what they deserve.

V/Line management have been put on notice; start making progress towards resolving members' major issues or we will escalate our campaign. Members have shown that they are disciplined in taking action.

RTBU bargaining representatives have made it clear to V/Line that they are willing and ready to bargain.

With growing patronage and major projects on the table, now is the time to lock in our conditions for the future.

Vik Sharma
Victorian Branch Secretary



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Darren Galea
Secretary Rail Operations Division



OJT MINIBUS ALLOWANCE WIN!

The RTBU has secured a victory for AOs across the V/Line network.

In October, V/Line abruptly announced that the allowance for Minibus actions would cease immediately.

RTBU disputed the lack of consultation around this change and the impact it would have in a time of increasing cost of living pressures.

Through the hard work of Delegates and Officials, we were able to secure the following for Authorised Officers at V/Line:

1. The On The Job Trainer (OJT) allowance will be paid as it was previously, back paid until 22 November. This represents four weeks

additional OJT allowance pay that we have secured for members.

2. Minibus initiative remains a voluntary addition to normal duties.
3. All staff who attend a disruption that is classed as a "minibus call out" are to be paid the minibus allowance from the time they are called out to the time they return to their respective home bases.
4. Minibus call out is as per disruption, not as per location. For example: for fatality, detraining may be one site with the actual replacement buses etc at a different site. If the minibus is called out for that disruption, AOs receive the allowance regardless of which location they attend.

5. If staff are recalled for a "Minibus callout", minibus payments will also occur for that call out.
6. All previous safety related matters regarding minibus remain the same, with driver fatigue checks and, 2 AOs in the minibus whenever passengers are being transported with 1 V/Line Incident Response Vehicle (VIRV) or other suitable work vehicle shadowing for safety (shadowing car must only have AOs).

If you have any questions, please speak with your local RTBU Delegate or contact me.



Joe Dennis
Organiser

INFRASTRUCTURE & PROJECTS UPDATE

I recently attended the 2023 RTBU National Council where I had the pleasure of meeting other Delegates and Organiser from across Australia. I took the opportunity to discuss how we organise the across Victoria and share knowledge with other states to improve how we represent members across the country.

Over the next 12 months I will be working closely with both Queensland and Western Australia Branches where other major projects are underway or ramping up to help better understand how we all work and adopt new ideas to improve the project space here too.

The last few weeks we have seen a lot of media focus on ballooning project costs across the

state. With a number of road projects scrapped and some rail projects delayed the RTBU is continuing to push the government to ensure all rail infrastructure works in Victoria, including Airport Rail, the Suburban Rail loop and critical ongoing Level Crossing Removals. These jobs not only secure employment for our members but also deliver much needed infrastructure for the state.

The V/Line Infrastructure EA is currently being negotiated. We are now about 6 meetings in and will continue negotiating to get a great agreement for RTBU members. Regular notices are sent out to members as well as online meetings with delegates and members to keep everyone

updated on where the negotiations are.

If you require any information please look out for the meeting invites as these meeting will be held on Teams due to the remote locations of V/Line workers throughout Victoria. You can also contact your delegate or myself for an update or to request on onsite visit.

While many projects are preparing for the Christmas break, we will be back in full swing in January. I look forward to working in 2024 and look forward to what will be a busy year for projects/ Infrastructure.

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