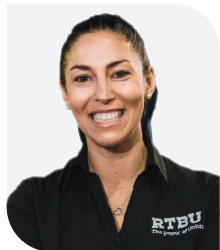


RTBU EXPRESS



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Luba Grigorovitch
State Secretary

V/LINE BARGAINING UPDATE

I have been out among V/Line members lately to talk about how we continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis and EA bargaining. Both issues are of utmost importance and as such it is critical I talk to members directly about them.

In relation to COVID-19, your health and safety is of upmost importance. If you believe something should be occurring differently in your workplace, please let us know. At the moment, the main focus of the RTBU is ensuring that intensive cleaning is occurring and that PPE being provided to all members.

With an increase in patronage there is sure to be additional requirements. Please speak up and let us know.

Moving over to the V/Line Operations EA, members at a Southern Cross Station meeting raised concerns with the progress of bargaining, this has been a theme across numerous meetings. It is important that these queries are addressed for the benefit of all members across the network.

Following heavy lobbying of the Transport Minister by the RTBU to become involved so that we could proceed with the EA, bargaining

is now being facilitated by an independent mediator, Julius Roe. Julius was the National President for the Metal Workers Union before he was appointed to the Fair Work Commission (FWC). He retired from the FWC in 2017 and has been engaged for private mediation for similar industrial matters since then.

Bargaining for a new enterprise agreement has become much more efficient since the mediator got involved and I am hopeful that proposed agreement will be finalized in terms that are acceptable. To this end, we have been increasingly meeting with V/Line Delegates to canvas options and ensure that we are taking into consideration the overarching views of each area. As this continues to progress, we will continue to get out and talk to members.

Members should be assured we are working tirelessly to ensure that any deal that is put to you will deliver industry standard wages and conditions. We will not allow V/Line to cut conditions. Time and time again, members have explained that conditions are most important.

Any proposed enterprise agreement will not be put to a vote without you getting access to a copy and the RTBU will never endorse an agreement

without the consideration and endorsement of your Delegates. As always, in the event of any tricks from V/Line management, the RTBU remains ready to cover the network to ensure you get the representation you deserve. When an agreement is finally put to a vote, we will be out to talk to you about how it would affect you and your colleagues.

I want to acknowledge the frustratingly slow pace at which bargaining in V/Line has progressed. Members have every right to be angry. While I am pleased that our lobbying was effective in expediting the bargaining process, it will be cold comfort if we cannot secure an in-principle agreement that is acceptable to members soon.

I will continue to regularly be out and around V/Line locations across the state, as will your Organisers.

Luba Grigorovitch
- State Secretary

COVID CRISIS CALCULATION

Pm Backs Down On Anti-Worker “Ensuring Integrity” Legislation

The Coalition's plan to kick the can down the road on their anti-worker legislation shows they're afraid.

This announcement is a win for workers, their unions, and all in the movement campaigning

against inequality and injustice. Our ability to keep up the fight against what would be a blank cheque for corporate Australia is significant as the government sniffs the breeze of the financial trauma to come.

On the brink of a recession that will unjustly hurt so many hardworking Australians, working people need a fairer share of the pie and greater dignity

and respect at work, not deeper attacks on their right to organise and bargain.

But our memories are long, while this legislation has temporarily been 'shelved' we won't rest on our laurels, there is always more work to be done. We must continue to fight for the rights of workers.





Darren Galea
Organiser

RISK ASSESSMENTS

The RTBU has contacted the major operators regarding Risk Assessments to ensure members across the network are safe in the current climate. As COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and the general public continues to return to public transport, we must remain vigilant to changes to both policy and circumstances.

We have already seen a rise in the number of people utilising public transport and we know this will continue. Concerns from members surrounding social distancing, and how overcrowding will be mitigated are well places and the RTBU is pursuing practices to keep members safe on a number of fronts.

All risk assessments that are conducted will have involvement with the RTBU representatives, HSRs, Union Officials and management. We have organised these risk assessments to ensure a safe and smooth transition from low

patronage to increased patronage. The focus is on members' safety and to ensure a safe working place while we continue to work and live with COVID-19 in the community.

The first risk assessments have already occurred for the V/Line AOs' Department. Other risk assessments have been organised for V/Line Conductors and Station Staff taking place on Monday 1 June, followed by Metro Authorised Officers and Metro Station Staff in the following weeks.

We will continue to respond to local concerns as required on a daily basis and will organise further risk assessments for all RTBU Members who may be impacted. If you have any particular concerns you wish to raise, please contact your Delegate or HSR to ensure it is raised in the assessment.

As always, if you have any questions, you can call me on 0407 512 494.



Vik Sharma
Industrial Officer /
Organiser

V/LINE FIRST AID DISPUTE UPDATE

As members are aware, the V/Line First Aid dispute has been ongoing for some time. The current status is that V/line has agreed to appoint all conductors as designated first aiders and as a result they will be in receipt of the first aid allowance.

The agreement was that V/Line would appoint conductors commencing 1 July 2020. However, we were not satisfied with the number of station staff V/Line were proposing to appoint after they conducted a risk assessment throughout the stations.

As a result, we have engaged V/Line HSRs to conduct another risk assessment.

A meeting will be shortly organised and will form the basis of a comprehensive risk assessment which will enable us to ascertain how many station staff should be appointed as designated first aiders.

Following this meeting, we will schedule a meeting with V/Line to discuss this further and to finalise this issue.

RTBU SOFT SHELL JACKETS

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per jacket

**Women's and Men's Sizes available:
S – 5XL for Men's and 8 – 18 for Women's.**

Choice of colour: Black or Navy Blue

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Orders including size, colour and payment upfront must be in by COB Friday 26 June 2020.



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