

RTBU EXPRESS



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Vik Sharma
Branch Secretary

VLINE EA & ACTU CONGRESS

V/Line Operations EA Ready to Vote!

Drafting of the V/Line Rail Operations EA has now concluded and all Government approval stages have been completed.

V/Line has informed the RTBU that with these steps now completed, that the access period will run from Monday 24 June to Wednesday 2 July.

The access period is a period of time an employer must give employees to review a proposed enterprise agreement along with explanatory documentation at least 7 days before the commencement of a vote.

Voting will then be open from 9am Wednesday 2 July until 12 midday on Friday 5 July.

This outcome is a testimony to the incredible solidarity and strength shown by RTBU members taking industrial action through 7 statewide stoppages to ensure a fair deal could be reached. Without a united and strong voice, the Government Wages Policy would not have been challenged in the way necessary to secure such an outcome - congratulations!

This enterprise agreement sets a new standard for the industry and provides steadfast protections for members in the face of a changing industry.

UNITY IS STRENGTH

UNIONS WORKING TOGETHER: ACTU Congress 2024

The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) triennial congress has concluded with a strong message. Working together, unions can take full advantage of new workplace laws to protect members and secure advances in wages and conditions.

The congress is an opportunity for unions to come together and share their experiences across different industries to improve outcomes in their respective workplaces. It also serves as an opportunity for delegates from different state branches of the RTBU to share learnings from recent disputes to ensure we operate as a cohesive and powerful national union.

RTBU National Secretary Mark Diamond in his speech discussed the importance

of solidarity where workers act together to achieve outcomes beyond the sum of their parts. Taking a whole of union strategy and playing as a team makes the RTBU a formidable force in the face of national and multinational corporate interests in the rail and public transport industry.

Other key topics also included new workplace legislation and how unions can tap into new powers, the future of work and international collaboration to fight back against globalised capital.

Vik Sharma
Victorian Branch Secretary





David Paton

Organiser

SAFETY ON THE NETWORK

I started working in the railways in June 2007.

Back then, Metro was Connex, John Howard was Prime Minister, and Geelong football club was on track to win the grand final.

The hot topic of conversation for the RTBU back then was safety. Now, 17 years later, while improvements have been won, the focus remains.

Over the years, the RTBU has continued to fight tirelessly to bring in more safety controls and initiatives to ensure your workplace is a safe place to be.

The RTBU has campaigned for protections to be enshrined to form a new standard across the country, and have continued to advocate for Members' safety, particularly those on the frontline.

The RTBU's Station Organisers are currently focusing on:

- Opposing Members working at locations one-up
- Ensuring station staff are not directed to perform Authorised Officer or VicPol Duties
- Opposing Members at one-up locations being directed to do station checks or red button checks during night network
- Opposing Members being directed to utilise public toilets outside during night network shifts

When Members are directed to perform duties that they feel are unsafe, we encourage them to speak to their local HSR or Delegate, and to raise the issues with the RTBU directly.

Despite the endless meetings, disputes and campaigns, it is disappointing to see

management still requesting unsafe work practices from our Members.

We know that when members work frontline roles alone at night, they are placed in increased dangers. Best practice should always be two-up at high risk times and locations.

Physical assaults and verbal threats remain persistently high and more needs to be done to support members seeking transfer to safer locations.

The RTBU has pushed for more consultation on these matters, and we are pleased to see that numerous regular forums have now been established and are being taken seriously.

With improvements being slowly announced, members know that all of these steps have only happened because of the consistent and

unwavering campaigning of the RTBU and its Members, Delegates and Representatives. These include increased AO headcount and presence, extra CCTV, de-escalation strategies, Trauma leave, etc.

Members know there is still further progress to be made and we won't back down from that pursuit.

We also remind members that you are not required to put yourself in danger, police the area, deal with aggressive or threatening behavior, or staff barriers in unsafe circumstances.

The RTBU is committed to ensuring the safety of ALL members and will never stop fighting for safer conditions. All stations should have enough staff to ensure that every member is safe all the time.



12 RULES FOR STRIFE

A master of cutting through the noise and digesting the big issues, Sam Wallman, unionist, comics journalist, and friend of the RTBU has just launched his latest book with Jeff Sparrow, looking at the importance of workers' hands on involvement in making change in the workplace.

DISCOUNT CODE: RTBU24
(25% off for RTBU members applies to all Sam Wallman titles)




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