



RTBU EXPRESS

The Official Newsletter of the Rail Divisions of the RTBU Victorian Branch
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Operations | Infrastructure | Workshops | Administration



Vik Sharma
Branch Secretary

SECURITY, BARGAINING & A HSR WIN

Network Security

The RTBU has been invited to participate in an industry roundtable to tackle the issue of trespassers on the network.

Trespassing on the Victorian network is higher than all other jurisdictions around Australia and as such is receiving attention from government and industry stakeholders.

As the union representing public transport workers, we know the impact this can have on members with different factors ranging from operational disruption through to mental and physical wellbeing.

The industry roundtable will include all relevant stakeholders across the industry to work collaboratively on addressing trespassing and recidivist behaviour to make the network safer and more secure

It is anticipated that that the first of many meetings will be held in September

EA Bargaining

With the V/Line Operations EA now pending certification from the Fair Work Commission and the V/Line Infrastructure agreement agreed in-principle, the major

round of public transport bargaining is coming to a close.

In the meantime, bargaining continues for the many members employed with the smaller employers across our industry. This includes the Probe PTV call centre, Baggage Handlers, Labour Hire and specialist rail projects and maintenance services.

As we move into the next phase, work begins on implementing the significant improvements negotiated for members throughout EA bargaining including classification changes, new initiatives and roster reviews where necessary.

Get in touch should you want a more in-depth update on your local area.

HSR WIN!

The RTBU has had a significant win for safety on-site, solidifying the power of HSRs.

With the support of the RTBU, a HSR has been successful in demanding information relating to an incident that the company had sought to redact.

This was challenged through WorkSafe who supported the HSR, but the employer took the matter to VCAT to avoid handing over relevant documents. They cited the Privacy Act, claiming that

the information would breach the privacy of the people involved.

VCAT has handed down its decision recognising the key role played by HSRs and the importance of having information made available for them to thoroughly undertake their duties in ensuring a safer workplace.

This outcome has established strong precedent for HSRs requesting information relevant to safety issues in their workplace and workgroup.

This information can include copies of rosters, incident reports, logs, and other information collected and/or held by the employer that relates to the safety of the workgroup.

To find out more, contact your union Organiser.

Vik Sharma
Victorian Branch Secretary

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RAIL DIVISIONS UNITED FOR PEACE

The RTBU has a long track record acting to support social justice, international solidarity, and peace activity in Australia and with transport workers in many countries.

Across generations, our members campaigned against conscription in WWI, the Vietnam War, nuclear weapons, South African apartheid, and for the independence for Timor Leste.

As unionists we have advocated for justice, fairness and decent living conditions not just in Australia but also given our support to other workers around the world. We recognise that war unfairly targets the lives and dignity of the working class - from civilians too often caught in the cross fire, to soldiers enrolled from our ranks, working families suffer.

In most recent times, shockwaves of the barbaric war between Israel and Hamas has seen the deaths of over 38,000 people since October last year. Many more find themselves in a dire and catastrophic humanitarian situation with Gaza's entire population being subjected to displacement and a lack of food, drinking water and basic medical supplies imposed by military means controlling the availability of aid.

The Rail Divisions Committees of Management recently recognised the significant number of workers killed in Gaza through attacks on schools, hospitals, ambulances, a wide range of infrastructure and UN sites including journalists, nurses, doctors, teachers, public servants and essential aid workers.

Our solidarity is with all who have been impacted by this war and the longstanding occupation and conflict in the region affecting not only Gaza, Israel and the West Bank, but also our communities here in Australia.

Noting the January 26 interim ruling of the International Court of Justice that Israel is plausibly committing the crime of genocide in Gaza. We applaud the leadership, support and work being done by unions, activists and politicians in advocating for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.

Our union recognises the outstanding and continuous campaign of rallies and actions around the world by all sections of the community.

Peace and justice are union business and we call for:

- An immediate, and permanent ceasefire, withdrawal of all Israeli military forces and end to the blockade of Gaza;
- The immediate release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups in Gaza, and all Palestinian prisoners taken hostage by Israel;
- The unimpeded and urgent flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza and freedom of movement of people to enter and leave Gaza;
- An end to all illegal occupation;
- Australia to recognise an independent and democratic Palestinian state, within secure and sovereign borders. This is essential if the Palestinian and Israeli peoples are to live together in peace and harmony;
- Australia immediately cease all weapons, military, intelligence contributions to the war; and
- Australian industry super funds ensure that the \$1.3 trillion worth of assets belonging to ordinary working Australians are not invested in businesses that are enabling or profiting from war.

We recognise that these are all the prerequisite measures for a just peace in this terrible conflict.



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RTBU REPRESENTATIVES OUT & ABOUT





Matt Purcell

Organiser

FIGHTING FOR AND WINNING BACK WHAT'S YOURS!

Always check your payslips! If you're not sure - just ask.

The RTBU works hard to enforce and ensure management pay you correctly. When they get it wrong, we jump in and get you what is yours.

Recently we came across a member at Metro Infrastructure who queried missed payments going back for a period of 10 years. Deeper investigation showed this sum to be worth in excess of \$50,000.

We checked the figures and pushed the case, successfully securing a packpay to be paid in full.

As you can imagine, the uncertainty that can come from thinking you have unclaimed missed wages can cause a great deal of grief and anxiety while you seek to navigate the process of recovery.

But in this instance, finally locking it in and receiving the funds can take off a huge burden - a backpayment that is truly life-changing for a humble family.

It has been an absolute pleasure to represent our members and to be able to provide them with such successful outcomes.

The RTBU is beyond thrilled and wishes them and their family all the very best. This story highlights the fact that if you feel something is wrong, please don't hesitate to bring it to your local Delegate or Organiser. Together we are stronger.

New Changeroom

In other news, we have been able to facilitate a new change room for members working at Gemco Altona.

Members had been pleading with the company for over a year to build a new change room, however they were met with a wall of silence.

The RTBU stepped in and through consultation we are happy to announce that this has now been secured.

This was well overdue and is a welcome addition to the Gemco Altona workshop.

Working people, regardless of who we are and what we do, deserve the dignity to be able to come to work and have a safe, private and comfortable place to get ready before commencement of shift.

It's safe to say that members are beyond pleased with the new change rooms, and it has created a more harmonious workplace.

**KNOW SOMEONE
INTERESTED IN RAIL?
WE CAN HELP!**

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