



Rail, Tram and Bus Union

STATEMENT

Minister should apologise for unfounded attack on workers

The Transport Minister should apologise for the scathing and unfounded attack she launched on the state's hard working train crew in the media.

Transport Minister Gladys Berejiklian told the Daily Telegraph website that she considered it a "disgrace" that the Auditor General's report showed that train drivers spend 30 per cent of the day driving trains, implying that hard fought for conditions such as 10 hour shifts and compulsory train safety checks are to blame.

RTBU NSW Secretary Alex Claassens said the Minister's comments were completely out of line. "The Transport Minister should apologise for her disgusting attack on the hard working men and women who dedicate their lives to driving trains in this state," Mr Claassens said.

"We work to schedules which are computer generated and controlled by the government, which means that drivers have no choice as to what kind of shifts they do.

"And as for the fact that "part of [drivers] employment agreement mandates they inspect trains before they drive them" - of course it does. We're not sure about the Minister's views, but we certainly believe the safety of the travelling public is the most important thing at the end of the day.

"We certainly won't apologise for putting the safety of the travelling public and workers first.

"The Minister's attack was a cheap shot with no substance at all. She should apologise to the people who keep our trains running for her disrespectful comments immediately."