



# RTBU EXPRESS

August Newsletter



## Secretary's message

Welcome to the August RTBU Express, your monthly collection of union bulletins and activities to keep you up to date with all the latest news across all divisions of the Union. Don't forget you can also keep up with RTBU NSW on Facebook. Visit the page and like us today.

This month we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of The 1917 Great Strike and we've continued the fight to protect Sydney's buses from the Government's privatisation scheme. Meanwhile our rail organisers and delegates have been getting ready for the Pacific National Protected Action Ballot, which opens September 1. Read all about August's events below.

Thanks for your ongoing support,

Alex Claassens  
Secretary  
NSW RTBU Express

## Commemorating the 1917 Great Strike

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of The Great Strike. It was one of the largest industrial actions Australia has ever seen, and began when rail and tramway workers in Eveleigh and Randwick downed tools against new working conditions. Today, our unions carry the torch for the brave men and women who struck in 1917. We've put together a special edition



The Great Strike 100th Anniversary

RTBU Express to commemorate the Great Strike, which you can access or download on the [RTBU Express website](http://www.rtbuexpress.com.au).



**"We're going to have driverless trains here"**

- Minister Andrew Constance speaking to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia 16 Aug 2017

**People do not vote for politicians who gloat about abolishing their jobs**

There has been an overwhelming reaction to Transport Minister Constance's gloating in the media that we won't need public transport workers in the future. Bob Nanva, National RTBU

Secretary told the Sydney Morning Herald that: "It is beyond galling to see NSW state minister Andrew Constance openly brag about his plan to use automation as a weapon to eliminate NSW transport workers. The prospect of a workforce with no workers, and public transport with no public, might sound like heaven to a Tory politician - but here's a tip for Mr Constance: Workers, like commuters, are people. People vote. And people do not vote for politicians who openly attack them, or gloat about abolishing their jobs. Bring on the next NSW state election. - Bob Nanva, RTBU National Secretary.



### Mind the gap. Minister's new, dodgy trains a safety disaster

### Fixing Sydney's public transport requires a new Minister not 'Uber' buses

NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance again demonstrated why he is not up to the job with his an-



On demand buses trial set to fail

nouncement of on demand 'Uber' buses, a scheme that has failed in every city it's been trailed in.

RTBU NSW Bus Secretary Chris Preston said "Minister Constance's pie in the sky 'Uber bus scheme' has been trailed in Boston, Washington, Kansas and Helsinki and in all cases they have gone broke because the cost and subsidies per rider were simply too high.

Why on Earth is Minister Constance tipping taxpayers dollars into a scheme which has gone bust in every other place it's been trailed? We know the answer. He doesn't know what he's doing."

Read more on [RTBU Express](#).

The safety of Blue Mountains train commuters will be put at real risk by the NSW Transport Minister's ridiculous decision to purchase trains that don't fit on the current tracks. Reports released in August reveal that stretches of track in the Blue Mountains will have to be shifted or replaced and stations and overhead wires altered to make the line between Springwood and Lithgow suitable for the new fleet of intercity trains.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union Secretary, Alex Claassens, said one major concern - among many - is the fact that the changes to stations will mean the gap between the platform and the current fleet of trains will be incredibly wide and hazardous. "This is a bungle of epic proportions," Mr Claassens said. "Unfortunately this is just the latest example of the Transport Minister thinking more about profits than the needs and safety of the community." Read more on RTBU Express online.

### RTBU front & centre at the NSW Labor Conference

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union was right in the middle of the action at this year's NSW Labor Conference.

It was a very significant conference for the trade union movement, with the Leader of the Opposition, Luke Foley, announcing a five-point plan to tackle worker exploitation and wage theft. Luke put union issues at the centre of Labor's pitch to voters for the next NSW election.

The RTBU has been fighting hard for many of the reforms that Luke announced. Our Union was also at the



NSW Labor Conference

forefront of Conference debates around issues such as labour hire, privatisation, safety, transport infrastructure and addressing domestic violence.

Read more about RTBU wins at the Labor Conference on [RTBU Express](#).





## PN Bulk & Coal – Time to vote!

To all Pacific National Bulk and Coal members: Protected Action Ballot voting will open on 1 September 2017 and as you know, there's a lot at stake.

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) will request a final list of eligible employees from management and a list of members from the RTBU very soon.

They'll use this to create a roll of voters for the ballot. This is your last chance to make sure your details match – if they don't, you may not be able to vote. Check out Loco Express for more information on the ballot.



Vote : Pacific National Bulk and Coal members: Protected Action

## Are your postal details up to date?

Have you moved house, changed employer or changed jobs recently? Please email the union at **NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au** or download the change of details form [here](#). If you know any members who have not provided their personal email address to the Union please encourage them to update their details as this newsletter is no longer sent to Railcorp, STA or other company addresses.

