



RTBU EXPRESS

January Newsletter



Secretary's message

Dear members,

Congratulations on demonstrating incredible solidarity throughout January, in what has been an enormous start to 2018.

Sydney and NSW Trains members won their ballot for protected action, which was outrageously suspended by the Fair Work Commission just days before our strike was to go ahead. Negotiations are still continuing, which you can read about below.

While staff across Sydney and NSW trains have been bearing the brunt of this Minister's incompetence and a poorly planned timetable, bus drivers in Newcastle have also been on the frontline dealing with the myriad of issues as a result of Constance's bus privatisation.

We've also heard whispers that the announcement of a private operator for region 6 is due any day now, but the Minister has been too busy naming (or renaming) ferries.

You can read more updates happening across the RTBU

NSW below, and be sure to stay up to date by signing up to our monthly email newsletter for all the latest news.

In Solidarity,

Alex Claassens
Secretary
NSW RTBU

increased workload, particularly among cleaners.

The survey also helped recruit a number of new members to the union and identified activists who have been stepping up to lead the fight for a fairer wages and conditions for the workforce. Thanks to everyone who took part in the survey.



UNION PROUD



The New Daily: One-third of qualified train drivers recruited for Melbourne were poached from NSW

"One-third of qualified train drivers recruited last year by Victoria's Metro Trains were poached from New South Wales, The New Daily can reveal.

Sydney's rail network has buckled in recent weeks as a new and more intensive timetable slathered on 1500 extra weekly services. And a dispute over pay and conditions, including unreasonable overtime hours, almost culminated in a 24-hour strike on Monday. Drivers have widely claimed Sydney Trains crew were moving interstate for better pay and a lower cost of living." Read the full story on The New Daily.

Survey helps identify key issues for cleaners, CSAs

A recent RTBU survey of cleaners and customer service attendants (CSAs) has identified some key issues for members in those areas – perhaps most notably an



ARTC Infrastructure tour

After voting down management's sub-par enterprise agreement offer twice and taking protected industrial action, ARTC Infrastructure members have forced management to improve allowance payments and to agree to faster progression through the pay scale.

A tour will take place this month to discuss the current offer on the table and to talk about the next steps. Stay tuned for tour details.

Bathurst Workshops (VAE) fight for fair offer

Members at Bathurst Workshops (VAE) are currently in the midst of a fight for fair pay and conditions as part of the current enterprise agreement negotiations.

After a successful protected action ballot, members implemented their first overtime ban. We are now currently waiting for management to put a new, revised offer on the table.

Sydney and NSW trains

What a month it's been for our entire union, particularly for members at Sydney and NSW Trains, who've been headlined on evening news almost every day for four weeks.

It's been tough. In January, just after members spent the summer sacrificing their festive season and working incredible amounts of overtime just to keep NSW moving, we had to bear the brunt of the blame game from the Government when the timetable collapsed. We've been bellowing for months that the new timetable wouldn't stand up, and it took the network falling to pieces before anyone listened. Even though they tried to blame the chaos on increased amounts of driver sickness, we made it clear that we've been forced to run a timetable without the resources we need. The Government never consulted the workforce to implement the new timetable, and even disregarded the expert advice they did seek, which recommended they wait until April 2018 when more resources were available. We've been doing more with less - and it didn't take long before the new timetable revealed itself to be the mess we said it'd be.

After the chaotic week across Sydney trains and commuter outrage, the Government finally agreed to consult with us in putting together a timetable review report which is now in the hands of the Minister.

Within days of the timetable chaos, Sydney & NSW Trains members received a resounding yes return vote on their ballot to take protected industrial action. Despite the fact that we followed every single procedure to be granted the option of legal, protected industrial action, at the 11th hour the Government intervened and the Fair Work Commission ruled that we must suspend our action for 6 weeks. It was a massive blow not just to Sydney and NSW Trains members, and not even just to RTBU members, but also to all union members across the country. The decision by the Commission has shined a spotlight on how broken our industrial relations rules are, meaning that Australian's may have lost the right to strike entirely.

We congratulate all members for their resilience and unity in what has been a tumultuous time. Negotiations are still proceeding, with the last offer presented by management on Thursday the 1st of February being rejected by over 200 delegates who voiced their concerns directly to Howard Collins. If you're a Sydney and NSW Trains members and don't receive our regular email updates, please contact NSWHO@rtbu-nsw.asn.au to make sure you don't miss out.

We'll continue to keep you up to date as we get information.



Ch9: Sydney's rail crisis could spread to bus network

In January, Nine News reported that Sydney's railway fiasco is threatening to spread to the city's bus services, with hundreds of services set to be privatised.

"9NEWS understands in coming days the NSW government will announce the private company that will run Inner-West and Southern Sydney (Region 6) buses. The move has infuriated unions, who last year walked off the job for 24 hours after the government made it clear the services would be sold off. "This



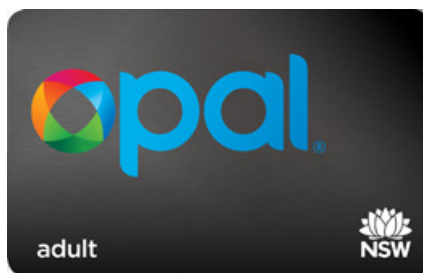
workforce is furious. This workforce was betrayed by this minister," RTBU NSW Secretary Chris Preston said.

Minister Constance flogs commuters with secret 10% price hike

Commuters should be outraged that we have a Minister for Transport who is hiking up prices, while driving down services to an all time low. This is what we've been warning all along. The Sydney Morning Herald (12/1/18) reported: "The average Opal fare that passengers pay for using NSW's public transport has risen by 10 per cent since an overhaul of ticketing just over a year ago, delivering revenue of about \$30 million a week to the state government, internal figures show.

While a regulated fare rise in July was kept to inflation, the figures obtained by the Herald under freedom of information laws show commuters have

actually paid more for their travel since the changes to the fare structure in September 2016." Read the full story on the Sydney Morning Herald.



Pacific National EA North and West Tour 2018

As a result of delegates unanimously concluding that what has been achieved at the bargaining table was significant enough to conduct a joint tour with Pacific National,

the RTBU can now confirm the details of the tour which will be to discuss any and all changes to the Bulk and Coal EA. RTBU delegates will be in attendance at all meetings to talk through the changes to the EA and answer any questions that members may have. If you have any questions about the tour, please contact your RTBU delegate. Find the full schedule on Loco Express.