



## Secretary's message

Dear members,

This month saw the release of the NSW Government's budget. What a disappointment. All of the transport announcements were just rehased announcements – the recycling of news we'd already heard.

What was bitterly disappointing to see was the list of stations that have again been left off the list of those which will receive funding for accessibility upgrades. The most glaring one to me was Unanderra – a station that RTBU members have been passionately calling to be fitted with lifts for many years. It infuriates me, and I know many of you, to see our Transport Minister and Premier constantly standing up and talking about the importance of customer service while cutting jobs, cutting services refusing to stump up the small amount of money it would take to make our transport accessible to people who really need it – older people, people with a disability, people with prams.

The NSW Government might think they're pulling the wool over the eyes of the public by releasing flashy papers and claiming to be improving transport services, but we know commuters have seen with their own eyes what this government's job cuts, services cuts and privatisation agenda has done to transport in this state. Here's hoping they send the message loud and clear at the next election.

Speaking of which, just a couple of days ago I spoke at a fundraising event for the ALP candidate for Bega – Leanne Atkinson - who will be running against our Transport Minister, Andrew Constance. I told the room there what I've been telling anyone who will listen for a long time now – it's time for Andrew Constance to go.

This Minister has done nothing but disrespect workers and attack our transport systems since he first stepped foot into parliament. The State Election is still over eight months away, but already the movement to kick Constance out is gaining momentum.

As I type, region six buses have officially become privately run, with Transit Systems taking

the reins from July 1. We know what's going to happen there – it's only a matter of time before services are cut, stops are closed and commuters are forced to deal with longer, more inconvenient journey times. Just ask the people of Newcastle.

You'll note in the articles below that nominations for union elections open on July 2. Being a union representative is a great opportunity to stand up and push for better workplace conditions for yourself and your fellow workers. I hope many of you consider taking up the opportunity to stand for a position in this great union.

In unity,

Alex Claassens  
RTBU NSW





## ARTC, RTBU Depot Visits

Your organisers are heading out to various depots starting on the 27th June 2018 to catch up with you and your workmates and, to update you on the progress of Agreement negotiations.

Depot meeting details are below;

DATE	TIME	DEPOT
Mon, 2nd July	15:00 – 15:30	Scone
Tues, 3rd July	15:00 – 15:30	Muswellbrook
Wed, 4th July	16:00 – 16:30	Maitland
Thurs, 5th July	15:00 – 15:30	Carrington

The times for these visits have already been pre-arranged with your local delegate and management to allow all members and employees to attend.

Further visits to the remaining depots will be arranged as soon as possible.

Please keep up to date with the frequent ARTC Infrastructure bulletins on RTBU Express.

## Media release: Rail workers outraged that Unanderra left off accessibility funding list

Rail workers say the NSW Government's decision to leave Unanderra Station off the list of railway stations that will receive funding to improve accessibility is outrageous and a slap in the face to local commuters.

The NSW Government yesterday revealed that 11 train stations will receive funding to improve accessibility in the upcoming state budget. Unanderra was not on the list despite local commuters and workers lobbying for action to be taken at the station for many years.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union Secretary, Alex Claassens, said that while the announcement of funding for other stations in the state is fantastic and much needed, the decision to leave some stations off the funding list needs further investigation.

"It's ridiculous that in 2018 we still have railway stations that are inaccessible to people with a disability, people with prams and people with mobility issues," Mr Claassens said. Read the entire media release on RTBU Express.

You can check out the news story here <https://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/5453644/union-backs-call-for-lifts-at-unanderra-station/>

## ARTC Negotiations

As depot meetings continue to roll-out around the state, it is clear that you and your work mates are ready to fight for a good Agreement!

On June 29, your RTBU team notified ARTC management that from 11:00am, Monday 9th July 2018, there will be a 5 hour work stoppage (strike). That means that you will not be at work during that time. Only RTBU members covered by the ARTC Infrastructure Maintenance New South Wales Agreement 2014 can participate. If you are not a member now is the time to join and stand up for your rights at work. If management tries to force you to work, contact your organiser Luke Hayden on 0499 710 707. To find out the action plans for your depot, speak with your delegate or make sure you get along to a membership meeting. Together we can win a fair Agreement that respects the value of your work.



## RTBU – 2018 union elections notice

The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has supplied information regarding the RTBU elections for National and NSW Branch positions for 2018. Head to <http://bit.ly/rtbuelection2018> for all the documents to download.

Nominations, which must be in writing and comply with the organisation's registered rules, may be made at any time from 9am on Monday 2nd July 2018. Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 23rd July 2018. Nominations may be withdrawn up to, but not later than, 5pm on Thursday 2nd August. Nominations will not be accepted by the AEC prior to 9.00am of the 2nd of July 2018.

Nomination forms are available from the RTBU office.

Members are urged to read the information on our website here <http://bit.ly/rtbuelection2018> and if you require further information, please contact Noopur Madan, Returning Officer with the AEC on (02) 9375 6321 or you may contact the RTBU office on (02) 9264 2511.

## Media Release: NSW Budget, Transport announcements all show, no substance

NSW Budget: Transport announcements all show, no substance

The transport components of today's state budget are more focused on providing good media headlines than on funding genuine improvements to public transport, the RTBU says.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) NSW Secretary, Alex Claasens, said many of the transport announcements in today's budget are all well and good, but lack the substance needed to genuinely improve transport in the state.

"It's what's missing from this budget that tells the real story," Mr Claasens said.

"Of course money for station upgrades is always very welcomed, but what about all of the other stations that are still crying out for accessibility improvements? We still have far too many stations that are inaccessible to less-able commuters.

"Of course, more bus and train services are welcomed, but what about all the services that this government has slashed recently? And the plans to close down a number of the state's rail lines for months on end?"

Read the entire media release on RTBU Express.

### Making Constance history

The RTBU has had enough of Minister Constance's privatisation of transport assets and his bungling of our network. We will be doing everything we can in his electorate to make him history.

We need to kick Constance out, and one way we can do this is by supporting Leanne Atkinson from Country Labor, to win the seat of Bega at the next election.

On Thursday night June 28th, Alex Claasens addressed the campaign launch for Leanne Atkinson to highlight why transport workers and commuters so desperately need Constance removed from his Bega seat, so that he can stop destroying our public transport network.







## NSW Trains Members – RTBU New Intercity Fleet (NIF) Tour

The RTBU Locomotive and Operations Divisions will be conducting a tour of NSW Trains InterCity areas to discuss with members aspects of the New InterCity Fleet (NIF) introduction, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide Members with an update on the process so far.

At this stage, NSW Trains management is refusing to allow your Officials to enter your workplace to provide you with this information.

We view the refusal by NSW Trains to allow your Elected Representatives access to your workplace to talk to you, as a sign that their commitment to an open and transparent process is one sided and not in the best interest of their workforce.

The RTBU are committed to an open and transparent process. Read the full bulletin on RTBU Express.

## John Holland, regional communities suffer at the hands of NSW Government

Last week, John Holland has announced the redundancies of 36 workers as a result of a \$50 million cut to the rail infrastructure budget by the NSW Government. This is a Government which continues to neglect regional jobs and infrastructure.

We have been involved in discussions with workers and management since these budget cuts were announced, with John Holland being able to reduce the original

number of redundancies from 60 down to 36. These redundancies will still hit our regional workers hard, and devastate families and communities in Dubbo.

We encourage all members affected to consult with the RTBU representative at your meetings this week, or call the office on (02) 9264 2511 if you have any further questions.

Read the story in the Daily Liberal on RTBU Express.

## Central Coast: Change the rules launch

On the 31st of July, Unions NSW will launch their Change the Rules campaign in the Central Coast. Read the information below, and head to RTBU Express for the RSVP link.

At a time when profits are booming, and the country is prosperous, working people on the Coast and across the nation are struggling like never before.

Locally, we see young people languishing on unemployment benefits as the youth unemployment rate hits 20%, the daily grind of clogged roads as we get to and from work in Sydney and Newcastle, trains that are packed to the brim, hospital wait times and school class rooms stretched to the limit and an NBN that works for half the coast and not the other...

**It's time us Coasties demand better!**

**it's time we demand change!**

