



RTBU EXPRESS

August Newsletter



Secretary's message

Dear members,

It's been an incredibly busy month. We've had strikes, Fair Work Commission hearings, tours - you name it.

Our fourth new intercity fleet tour took place in August, allowing us the opportunity to speak to members directly about the new trains the NSW Government has purchased. We know that the NSW Government is planning on operating the trains as driver only. We also know that we won't be letting that happen without one hell of a fight.

Train guards play a vital role on our trains. They assist passengers, they ensure our trains run on time, and they're there to assist in the event of an emergency. Removing guards would not only pose a huge risk to commuter safety, but it would also force train drivers to shoulder an unworkable workload.

We've launched an action on the Our Transport website allowing people to send a message to Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, calling on him to ditch his ridiculous guard-less trains plans. If you haven't already, please go to www.ourtransport.org.au/guarding-our-safety and tell the Transport Minister we won't

stand by and allow him to attack our transport network.

At Aurizon, our members have been standing united in order to get the fair enterprise agreement they deserve, having two big stoppages over the past several weeks.

It was great to be at the peaceful assemblies and witness the solidarity of the members and see the support the local community has given to the workers. It can get incredibly cold standing outside overnight but the tough conditions didn't daunt Aurizon members at all. They've stood united day and night, knowing that united, we'll never be defeated.

As I write, we've just had news that the company has finally listened to members' concerns and put an offer on the table that the negotiating team has accepted in-principle. Hats off to our Aurizon members - you've shown what true union spirit look like and have proven that when you stand united, you get the outcomes you deserve.

Another fantastic union moment this month was our Women's Rights at Work Day which saw women from all divisions come together to talk about how we as a union can stand up for the issues

that matter to the women in our union. A huge thank you to everyone who was involved on the day, including Luba Grigorovitch, RTBU Victoria Secretary, who travelled up to address the crowd.

And that's just a snapshot of what's been happening across the RTBU this past month. You can read more in the articles below and on RTBU Express. And as always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the RTBU office or your local delegate.

I trust you'll enjoy this edition of RTBU Express.

In Solidarity,
Alex Claassens
RTBU NSW Secretary





Breaking news: Aurizon finally offer decent agreement

In breaking news, Aurizon management have finally come to the table with an offer that the union negotiating team has accepted in-principle.

This follows a hard-fought campaign by Aurizon workers who stood strong and took part in protected industrial action in order to get a fair enterprise agreement.

The next step is for workers to vote on the agreement. Stay tuned for information on that.

In the meantime, you can have a look at the latest information and see the history of the campaign on Loco Express or RTBU Express.



RTBU – 2018 union elections

Postal ballot voting in the RTBU union elections will open this week. The timing and voting structure varies across divisions, so may sure you keep an eye out for voting information relating to your division. You can head to the RTBU Express website to view an overview of all documentation and the election timeline. And if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the union office or the Australian Electoral Commission on (02) 9375 6321

It's important to remember that the strength and health of our union relies on its democratic structures and decision-making processes.

All members have the opportunity, through democratic elections, to choose the representatives that they believe will best represent their interests and the interests of all RTBU members. Voting in your union's elections is an important exercise of your demographic rights and responsibilities. The union elections are conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission.

To ensure your union remains democratic all members are urged to vote in the RTBU 2018 election.

ARTC Infrastructure Maintainers Enterprise Agreement – Call Your MP and Support Regional Jobs

Negotiations with the Australian Rail and Track Corporation (ARTC) have been ongoing for more than 18 months, and we still don't have a fair deal on the table.

Management's refusal to negotiate a fair agreement has forced ARTC members to take part in protected industrial action lately, and now the call is on to step things up and start calling on our local MPs to add their voice to the fight for good regional jobs.

As ARTC's biggest shareholder is the government, our local MP's need to be asking why ARTC won't support a fair pay rise for regional Australians.

If you're an ARTC member, or if you'd like to show your support for your ARTC comrades, go to RTBU Express to find your local MP's contact details and share your story. Tell them what this pay rise would mean for you and your family, or why you're calling on them to support our ARTC workmates. Get them to commit to asking ARTC why they will not put a fair and decent pay rise on the table and why they don't care for regional workers and their families.

It's time for each MP to decide, will they back you and say that regional Australians need a pay rise?



Alex Classens addresses Sydney Lantern Walkers to Fix NSW Transport

On Saturday the 11th of August, workers and commuters across Sydney came together for a Lantern Walk through the streets of Sydney in protest of the NSW Government's erosion of our public transport.

Among the issues angering the crowd of protestors were the NSW Government's guardless trains plans, the privatisation of our bus network, and the attack on



At Sydney Town Hall, RTBU NSW Secretary Alex Claassens addressed protesters.

You can read a copy of his speech on RTBU Express.

Guardless NIF trains - call on Constance to stop the attack on workers and safety

The NSW Government has made it clear that it intends to make our New InterCity Fleet (NIF) guardless.

Running trains without train guards is a disaster waiting to happen. They will cause our trains to run late, force drivers to shoulder an unworkable workload and put passenger safety at serious risk.

While the Transport Minister, Andrew Constance, is spruiking the new trains' tray tables and phone chargers, he's failing to mention his plan for attacking the safety, reliability and comfort of commuters.

The new trains will:

- Remove guards from the trains: a serious risk to safety to passengers and crew, a major set-back for people with a disability and those less able, and a disaster for on-time running;
- Force commuters to travel backwards because the seats are fixed;
- Have around 400 fewer seats than the current trains.
- Train guards play a vital role in keeping commuters safe and making sure our trains run on time. They assist people with a disability and the less able to use our public transport services, they ensure the safety

of passengers on our trains, they assist in the event of an emergency, and they keep our trains running on time.

You can see a reminder of the NSW Trains NIF proposal on RTBU Express.

The good news is that we can stop this. The NSW Transport Minister, Andrew Constance can easily make a decision to keep guards on our trains.

Will you send a message to the Transport Minister via the Our Transport website (www.ourtransport.org.au) calling on him to ditch his ridiculous and dangerous guardless trains plan? The more messages he gets, the greater chance we have of getting the Minister to change his plans. Ask your mates and family to send a message too!

Go to www.ourtransport.org.au to send Andrew Constance a message.

You can also read a Sunday Telegraph article about the move to take guards off our trains, or watch a Ch9 news report on the issue on the Rail, Tram and Bus Union NSW Facebook page.





Media release: Workers urge review of 'Super Saturday' Sydney rail mess

Aug 20, 2018

Rail workers are calling on the Transport Minister to commit to conducting a full review of the "IT errors" that hit the Sydney network on the weekend to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Workers were called on to exceed their shift limits on Saturday in order to keep trains moving after an apparently unfortunate mix of "IT errors" and electrical faults hit the system. It is not the first time IT errors have been used as a reason for significant delays on the system in recent times.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) Secretary, Alex Claassens, said that while workers welcomed the Transport Minister's call on commuters to respect workers during the delays, it is important that all steps are taken to ensure situations like we saw on Saturday don't continue to occur.

"The situation on Saturday was incredibly difficult for everyone involved, especially for the commuters who were left stranded for hours on end," Mr Claassens said.

Read the full media release on the RTBU Express website.

RTBU Women's Rights at Work Day

The RTBU Women's Rights at Work Day was a huge success, with women from across the union coming together to share experiences and ideas on how to build on the unity and strength of women in our industry.

Our industry and our union are stronger because of the women among us, however, particularly in a male-dominated industries like ours, we need to be continually striving to make our workplaces more diverse and inclusive.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the day, including Secretary for the Workshop Division, Nyssa Parsons, who had a big hand in the organisation of the day and RTBU Victoria Branch Secretary, Luba Grigorovitch, who came up to address the crowd.

If you'd like to be involved in the RTBU Women's Committee, please contact the RTBU office on (02) 9264 2511.



Be in the Ballot for a Christmas Holiday at the RTBU Holiday Park

A ballot will be held on Friday, 28th September 2018 to decide who will spend the peak Christmas holiday period (Saturday, 22nd December 2018 to Saturday the 26th January 2019) at our Holiday Park at Jervis Bay.

Members are encouraged to submit their ballot forms early to ensure they are in the draw. This ballot is to reserve a spot in the Christmas period and costs can be found on the RTBU website.

Nomination forms are available on our RTBU Express website, or by contacting the office on (02) 9264 2511 or by emailing nswwho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au. Read more on RTBU Express.

