



## Secretary's message

Dear members,

This month unions across NSW have had a massive win by preventing the Government's last minute effort to rush through a Bill that would see Roads and Maritime Services vanish, and strip the amount of long service leave that public sector workers are entitled to. The Government tried to sneak this through quietly in the state budget – but Unions NSW acted quickly and together, we won.

We've also been back in the Fair Work Commission with NSW Trains – who have essentially reneged on the promise that we secured from the Transport Minister to keep guards on trains, "in the role of a guard". The proposal that NSW Trains is putting to their employees has absolutely not been endorsed by the RTBU and we are gearing up to take the battle back to the Fair Work Commission again on July 5 – while we also prepare to launch another public campaign.

You may have noticed that Sydney's new metro trains were closed for maintenance just 26 days after opening – raising serious doubts about the safe operation of the trains and how the Government has spent \$7.6 billion on a network that hasn't been able to run for more than 26 days without closure. Commuters deserve a reliable service without regular weekend closures.

This month new data was released showing that the on-time running of Sydney's privatised bus network is

plummeting – vindicating what we've been saying for years – that privatisation only erodes our public transport network, whilst filling the pockets of the big end of town. The Government promised that privatising Sydney's buses would improve on-time running rates and improve services overall – but the commuters of Sydney are experiencing anything but.

**In solidarity,  
Alex Claassens  
RTBU NSW Secretary**





## Government cuts to Public Service LSL entitlements and RMS dissolution stopped

Buried deep within this year's state budget papers was a casual remark about future savings to the budget by reducing long service leave (LSL) entitlements for public sector workers. While this was troubling, no one around the union movement knew anything about it until the government introduced the bill.

The State Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 went before the Legislative Council in June and was seeking to dissolve RMS, transferring all its assets, rights, liabilities and functions to Transport for NSW.

This Bill threatened to seriously undermine the rights and entitlements for our public sector workforce including RTBU members - so there was no doubt we had to fight against it - and we had to fight fast.

Unions NSW immediately swung into action, working with Labor and the crossbenchers to stop the changes to long service leave, and the changes to dissolve RMS, from going through.

**In a big win for the workers and tax payers of NSW - unions were successful in getting both changes stopped by removing them from the Bill. This is an incredible win and shows the power that we can have when unions across the state unite for a common cause.**

## Misleading Statements by NSW Trains



Members may be aware that NSW Trains have presented the RTBU with their proposed operating model for the new NIF trains and are now advising members of the same at their "In the Know" sessions.

Now we have heard that NSW Trains management are touting their proposed operating model as being the result of 2 years consultation with the RTBU which is disingenuous as it implies the RTBU is in agreement with their proposal.

To be clear, the RTBU opposes the NSW Trains proposed operating model on many grounds.

For a detailed update on the RTBU's position in response to Transport for NSW's proposal, please read this update on RTBU Express. Be advised that the next hearing at the Fair Work Commission will occur on July 5.

Essentially, NSW Trains have reneged on the deal that had been struck with the Transport Minister about keeping guards in their role whereby they would continue to watch trains in and out of platforms and provide the right of way. This is absolutely unacceptable, and make no doubt, the RTBU is ramping up the fight in the Fair Work Commission this week, as well as preparing to launch another public campaign.

In the meantime our members from the New Intercity Fleet will continue to be updated via email bulletins - and if you're not getting these updates, please email [nswwho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au](mailto:nswwho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au)



## New Sydney metro closes for maintenance just weeks after opening



After just 26 days of operation, Sydney's new North West metro closed over the weekend of June 22 to 23. It raises questions over the safety and efficiency of the \$7.6 billion project, where commuters were forced back onto buses with trackwork happening across multiple other rail lines over the same weekend.

Meanwhile, the RTBU has written to Metro Trains Sydney out of concerns raised by our members that rostering and fatigue issues are not being adequately addressed by management. At the same time, we're also getting closer to gathering all the signatures needed on our Majority Support Determination petition in order to file it with the Fair Work Commission and force MTS to come to the table and bargain for a fair agreement for workers.

## Sydney's buses on time running plummets under private operation



It is clear that the decision from the NSW Government to privatise buses have only resulted in a deterioration of Sydney's public transport system. New figures in reveal that privatisation in Region 6 has led to a decrease in on-time running.

Data shows the buses - now run by Transit Systems - have failed to meet the on-time running key performance measure of 95 per cent of buses running on time every month since the private company took over the contract in July last year.

Tram and Bus Division Secretary, David Babineau, said the figures are more evidence that when transport is privatised, commuters and workers lose out.

"This is exactly what happens when you sell a public transport service off to the private sector - commuters lose out," Mr

Babineau said. "Commuters in the inner west are being robbed of the quality bus service they deserve.

"We've seen it in Newcastle and now we're seeing it in the inner-west. When bus services are privatised, bus stops close, on-time running goes out the window, routes are cut and workers' conditions plummet."

**Head to RTBU Express to read our full media release.**

## On time running of Sydney's buses continues to drop under private operation.

**SHARE** if you think public services should stay in public hands.





## RTBU Infrastructure Newsletter

The first RTBU Infrastructure newsletter has been released for 2019.

Head to [RTBU Express](#) to download your copy.



## Affordable rental housing offer in Sydney's north west

First State Super and Echo Realty are offering RTBU members a 20% discount on 61 rental apartments in Epping that they are reserving specifically for workers.

Rents are set at 80% of the market average and to be eligible, prospective tenants must meet maximum income and asset thresholds.

Head to [RTBU Express](#) to download the brochure with more information.

# Abuse is part of the job

## New data reveals bus drivers are living in fear of angry customers



An article on ABC News has revealed that nowadays, aggression towards bus drivers is a norm and many bus drivers are afraid that the next late bus or peak traffic time will mean coping abuse from both passengers and other motorists.

New data from Transport Safety Victoria has shown that in the last 10 years, there have been

241 physical assaults on Victorian bus drivers with 20 incidents occurring in 2018 alone. This reflects a similar experience of our bus drivers here in NSW.

Over the last few years there have been reports of punching, stabbing and even rock throwing and getting spat on. This is completely unacceptable and bus drivers are not responsible for their passengers' bad days, drinking habits or fare evasion.

In fact, the job has become far more stressful thanks to tighter timetables and an accepted culture of aggression towards drivers.

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division Secretary, David Babineau said "The way some of our members are treated is an absolute disgrace. Abuse at work is never okay. We encourage everyone to join the union and bring these cases to us."



## Vinnies CEO Sleepout

Every June, RTBU NSW Secretary, Alex Claassens joins a group of other leaders from across the country in sleeping out in order to raise funds for people who are homeless.

Alex Claassens said “Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. I know how easy it is to find yourself out of a job, fall on hard times and spiral into homelessness. It’s horrific that the rates of homelessness here in NSW is growing and I feel lucky to be in a position where I can do something to help out.”



**This year Alex’s fundraiser raised over \$8,500.**  
This will provide an extra: 27 individual support programs + 71 beds + 285 meals



## Christmas Ballot 2019

A ballot will be held on **Friday, 27th September 2019 to decide who will spend the peak Christmas holiday period (Saturday, 21st December 2019 to Saturday the 25th January 2020) at our Holiday Park at Jervis Bay.**

The ballot form can be found here or by contacting the office on (02) 9264 2511 or by email [nswho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au](mailto:nswho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au).

Once the draw has been completed you will be contacted and advised of the outcome of the draw. If successful, you will need to complete the registration form with the names of the

people attending the booking and agree to the camp rules.

If we do not receive your confirmation and payment together with the completed registration form by the 22nd November, your booking will be automatically cancelled.

Bookings are restricted to financial RTBU members only, on the basis of one unit per member for a minimum of one week and a maximum of two weeks.

Cost is \$875.00 per week (including GST). This price is for one cabin which can hold up to six people. Proof of membership will be required upon arrival.

For more information about the Holiday Park or any questions, please call the RTBU office on (02) 9264 2511 or email [nswho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au](mailto:nswho@rtbu-nsw.asn.au).

**Members are advised to submit their ballot forms early to ensure they are in the draw.**



**RTBU Holiday Park - Jervis Bay**