



# TRANSPORT

# NOW

## LABOR CONFERENCE SPECIAL

### Labor backs Truth in Bargaining

The RTBU's campaign for Truth in Bargaining received a huge boost at the ALP National Conference when Labor endorsed Truth in Bargaining as part of its policy platform for the next Federal election.

After some intense negotiations behind the scenes, the Conference endorsed an amendment to the draft Platform put forward by the RTBU. The final clause in the Platform stated:

“Labor believes in the right to collective bargaining in good faith ... To that end, Labor believes that truth in bargaining will be assisted by a disclosure framework, with appropriate safeguards, for information that is relied on in denying a workforce claim during negotiations.”

Speaking to the amendment at the National Conference, Victorian Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch said laws needed to be changed to restore confidence in the enterprise bargaining system.

“The reason we need to force some employers to act honestly is because we’ve seen too many examples of companies crying poor to their employees, while boasting about rivers of gold to their shareholders,” Luba said.

“The US already has laws like this. If employers are using information to justify their arguments in a negotiation,



then unions have a right to ask for it, and employers have an obligation to provide it.

“The United States isn’t exactly renown for its pro-union labour laws, but even they think that requiring bosses to support their arguments with facts is not too much to ask.”

National Secretary Bob Nanva said the union would continue work constructively with Shadow Workplace Relations Minister Brendan O’Connor.

“Getting a commitment to Truth in Bargaining into the ALP National Platform has been a huge achievement, but we will not stop until this policy is written into Australian law,” Bob said.



## Putting rail safety first

**Labor's policy position on rail safety has been strengthened after the National Conference endorsed an RTBU amendment relating to the National Rail Safety Regulator.**

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Assistant National Secretary Allan Barden said the Union is concerned that the National Rail Safety Regulator has been driving safety standards down to

the "lowest common denominator", rather than lifting them up.

"Our amendment to the Labor Platform made it clear that the aim of the National Rail Safety Regulator must always be to improve safety standards and to apply best practice across the country," Allan said.

"We support the principle of a national approach to safety, but the national regulator has to be producing the right outcomes."

The RTBU amendment was supported by Shadow Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese MP.

## Investing in public transport

**Labor has again endorsed Federal Government investment into public transport projects, drawing a clear distinction between the ALP and the Coalition on transport policy**

The RTBU succeeded in strengthening the draft platform by specifying that a Labor Federal Government "will make funding available for public transport projects, including urban passenger rail and rapid transit infrastructure - unlike the Federal Coalition."

The amendment was supported by Shadow Infrastructure Minister Anthony Albanese MP.

National Secretary Bob Nanva said the union will make the urgent need for Federal investment in public transport the focus of its campaign activities leading into the next Federal election.

"Any Government that fails to invest in public transport is failing in its obligations to the community," Bob said.

"Tony Abbott's petty and senseless hatred of public transport is leaving millions of Australians stranded without access to the transport services they desperately need."

# Nanva elected as ACTU Vice President



**The RTBU has its first-ever elected official on the top table of the ACTU – the peak body for the union movement in Australia – after National Secretary Bob Nanva was elected as one of the ACTU’s Vice Presidents.**

“Despite the current attacks on trade unions, including the politically-motivated pantomime that is the Trade Union Royal Commission, the labour movement will continue to endure, and continue to play a pivotal role in Australian society,” Bob said.

“RTBU members across the country are at the forefront of the Abbott Government’s war on workers. They want us to fight back against the creeping casualisation of work, the privatisation of public enterprises, and the erosion of real wages and conditions.”



## Coastal shipping reform threatens rail jobs

**National Secretary Bob Nanva spoke up against the impacts of the Federal Government’s coastal shipping reforms at the ALP National Conference.**

Bob said that Australian jobs across the transport and logistics supply chain were at risk if overseas flag of convenience vessels were allowed to take a larger slice of Australia’s coastal shipping trade.

Under the proposed laws, ships from countries like Liberia (with workers on third world pay and conditions, and not paying Australian taxes) would be able to sail between Australian ports for up

to six months of the year, wiping out Australia’s domestic coastal shipping industry and taking freight way from interstate rail services.

The RTBU has also made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the new laws, arguing that around 300 direct jobs in intermodal freight rail are threatened by the new laws.

Industry sources have estimated that over 1,000 direct jobs are at risk in the rail industry by 2034 if Tony Abbott gets his way.

## Public ownership of rail assets

An RTBU resolution supporting the continued public ownership of the Australian Rail Track Corporation was passed unanimously at by the ALP National Conference.

The RTBU motion recognised that Australia’s publicly-owned rail freight network is a vital and profitable national asset, with no natural competitors; and condemned the Abbott Government and National Party for not standing up for rural and regional businesses that are reliant on the ARTC for their operations.



# AROUND THE GROUNDS



## VIC MTM and Yarra Trams on notice

**Around 1,500 people have rallied outside Melbourne’s Flinders Street Station in a sign of growing community anger at the behaviour of Metro Trains Melbourne and Yarra Trams.**

RTBU members at Melbourne’s metropolitan passenger train and tram operators have overwhelmingly voted in favour of protected industrial action.

The MTM ballot recorded 98% “YES” vote, while the Yarra Trams ballot recorded an even more resounding 99.4% “YES” vote.

Victorian Branch Secretary Luba Grigorovitch said Melbourne’s public transport workers were sick and tired of the arrogant behaviour of MTM and Yarra Trams management.

“These two giant multinationals have been milking Melbourne commuters and public transport workers dry for the past six years – and sending every cent back to their overseas shareholders,” Luba said.

Speaking at the rally, National Secretary Bob Nanva warned Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews not to be seduced by the big corporations running Melbourne’s public transport network.

“Because, if you get into bed with the bosses, then I can guarantee that you’ll wake up in the morning and regret it,” Bob said.

## SA Genessee & Wyoming bring track maintenance in-house

Outsourcing might be all the rage in the rail industry, but one company at least is going the other way – with Genessee & Wyoming Australia (GWA) in South Australia bringing track maintenance in-house.

SAN/NT Branch Secretary Darren Phillips said a transmission of business agreement had been signed between GWA and the former contractor, Transfield.

“Genessee & Wyoming has already brought a number of operations back in-house to build up its internal capacity,” Darren said.

GWA owns almost 5,000km of rail track in South Australian and the Northern Territory, including the Tarcoola-Darwin railway.

## STOP PRESS

Tram workers in Melbourne have taken industrial action, shutting down the network for four hours. Workers at Metro Trains Melbourne have also announced a 4-hour stoppage for Friday 4 September.

## Get involved in the conversation!



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