

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



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RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



Government dragging its feet on gas bus safety measures

One year after a gas bus exploded in Hillsdale, prompting drivers to pull them all off the roads, promised safety measures for the buses have not yet been implemented.

STA said it would oversee the installation of fire suppression systems for each gas bus, but not one has been installed.

RTBU officials were called bullies and thugs by the Premier when they took the decision to remove all gas buses from service.

But a recent report by the NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigations vindicated drivers' actions and gave a further mandate for action to improve safety on buses.

Gary Way spoke with Channel 10 about his concerns saying the lack of action so far was a real concern for drivers.

"It is critical the STA and the Government act now to ensure the safety of drivers and bus travellers," he said.

Go to www.busexpress.com.au to watch the whole story



Meet your Delegate: Bruce Eddy

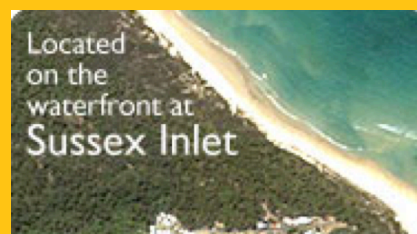


Every month we feature a delegate on the Bus Express website and ask them a few questions about themselves.

Go to the website to check out this month's delegate Bruce Eddy from Randwick.

RTBU Holiday Park

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Tempe dispute signals break through in unfair policy

After having only one responsible accident in his entire career, a member at Tempe depot was placed on stage one of the incident/collision discipline policy. When he notified local RTBU rep Ash Sarker of this outrageous situation he filed a dispute notice.

The dispute slowly made its way through the various stages of the dispute settlement procedure.

Ultimately Gary Way elevated it to the General Manager, Human Resources STA. After the decision was review, General Manager Southern Region, Mark Peters reversed the decision much to the relief of the driver.

In welcoming the Tempe decision Gary Way committed the Union to disputing all decisions that are triggered by not responsible accidents.

All members are encouraged to notify their Union rep if they find themselves in these situations.



Divisional Secretary Chris Preston and Divisional President Gary Way



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

Tram workers must be consulted on new trams

The Minister for Transport has announced a \$20 million contract for the supply of new trams to run on the Inner West Light Rail Extension.

The RTBU is pleased to see the government recognise the need for new rolling stock on our tram network and welcomes this announcement.

In the past, however, all new trams used in the country have been manufactured in Australia to exceedingly high standards.

The RTBU is disappointed to see the contract awarded to an overseas supplier but hopes the new stock will continue to reach the standards that Australian passengers and drivers are accustomed to.

To ensure this is the case tram workers must be engaged in consultation during the construction and testing process from the very beginning.

The RTBU will be seeking to work with the supplier and the government to establish a timeline of consultation to ensure the best possible outcomes for tram drivers and passengers.

39. Articulated bus allowance

39.1 An employee who operates an articulated bus shall be paid an additional amount per shift as set out in the Part B, Item 2 of Table 2 of this Award.

39.2 An employee who operates an articulated bus on 124 or more shifts in a twelve month period immediately prior to clearing paid leave, shall be paid the allowance set out in Part B, Item 2, Table 2 of this Award for the period of the paid leave.

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