

BUS EXPRESS

News and views from life in the bus lane



Edition No. 36 • 27 February 2013

RTBU NSW Tram and Bus Division



“STA SWINGS THE AXE: ROSTER CARNAGE”

Route Optimisation impacting rosters was incorporated in the Bus Operators Award back in 2007. STA has had six years to phase in changes in an orderly fashion, but in their usual pathetic state of hopelessness, the bureaucrats sat on their backsides and did virtually nothing.

Now, in a **vicious attack on their own employees**, STA are using the bulldozer approach to implement optimisation in one fell swoop. They are destroying many rosters and in the process destroying the lives of drivers and their families.

The children and family members of many drivers will be affected as the rosters they build their lives and commitments around disappear.

In the worst example of what amounts to workplace thuggery, 60 drivers will be displaced in the Kingsgrove depot. Most of these drivers have given their entire working life to STA - several with 30 or 40 years service.

Such a cold, savage attack is unprecedented and looks suspiciously like payback after the union rejected the Rowley reforms, which members should note are a completely separate issue.

State Transit's overpaid henchmen can hide behind the excuse of “improved efficiencies” and everybody agrees dead running should be minimised, but there is no excuse for the way employees are being treated during this bloody-minded implementation.

The union executive, which is comprised of representatives from every depot are currently engaged in a series of “crisis” meetings in an effort to mitigate the pain as much as possible.

Given the optimisation clause is in the award, it would be extremely difficult to stop the roster changes but **we will never, ever forget the disgusting and unnecessarily aggressive treatment of our members.**

Drivers now have zero respect for STA Management.

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Bussies showing PN Rail solidarity



Bus Divisional members joined in showing solidarity with striking Pacific National Coal train drivers recently.

Here Kelly Budden and Leanne Holmes lent their support to those on the picket line for better pay and conditions working on the company's coal rail lines.



IMPORTANT INFO FOR MEMBERS: MID-TERM UNION ELECTIONS

Elections are due this year for some positions within the union.

The Australian Electoral Commission will hold ballots at each depot on Thursday, 14 March for a number of positions, including specific to the Bus Division:

- National Vice President (Road)
- National Office – Assistant National Secretary, Tram and Bus Division.
- National Branch Offices – Delegate to National Council from NSW Branch Tram and Bus Division (4)
- NSW Branch Offices – Branch Divisional Delegate to Branch Council (5)

Members can get involved in this important process by casting their vote between 7am and 4.30pm. You will need to show identification with your staff number or driver's licence.

You will be able to vote at a depot other than your own by filling out an absentee vote on the day.

With regard to other positions elected by postal ballot only, members are strongly encouraged to exercise their right to vote for the positions of National President and NSW Branch Delegate to National Executive (3 positions).

More information is available at <http://busexpress.com.au/important-info-for-members-depot-attendance-ballots/>



*Divisional Secretary Chris Preston
and Divisional President Gary Way*



Vice President Brett Peters
Know your Rights

31. Overtime

31.4

An employee called upon to work overtime beyond the normal rostered shift after 11.30 pm and before 5.30 am shall, upon request, be provided by the employer with transport to or from the employee's place of residence.

Bus Stickers Available

Divisional members may have seen these stickers around town. They're available from the union office in Redfern for members who can assist in displaying them in appropriate places.



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