

**AMWU**  
**MINUTES VICTORIAN STATE COUNCIL**  
**13<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2019 2019**

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD AT 251 QUEENSBERRY STREET, CARLTON SOUTH**  
**COMMENCING AT 9:00am, WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

President Bro. Mick Terry presided and declared the meeting open at 9:05am

**STATE COUNCILORS PRESENT:**

Bro. T. Mavromatis	Bro. D. Andrews	Bro. A. Anderson	Bro. M. Terry	Bro. T. Piccolo
Bro. D. Rozario	Bro. M. Green	Sis. K O'Brien	Sis. M. Sikk	Bro. Mick. Bull
Bro. S. Wise	Bro. V. Pepi	Bro. A. Thomas	Sis J. James	Bro. N. Mitchell
Bro. K.Topp	Bro. M. Cannon	Bro. L. Malgeri	Bro. J. Hefford	Bro. D. Fairchild
Bro. P. Difelice	Bro. R. Kenna	Bro. S. Brooks	Bro. C. Ormsby	Bro. R. Balantyne
Bro. P. Lavery	Sis. N. Nam			

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**STATE COUNCILORS APOLOGIES:**

Bro. P. Springer	Bro. W Morris	Bro. C. Brown	Bro. M. Kennedy	Bro. Z. Cimborá
Bro. L. Jones				

***Moved and Seconded:***

'The minutes of the State Council meeting of the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 be endorsed.

***Carried***

***Moved and Seconded:***

'The minutes of the State Admin meeting of the February 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 be endorsed.'

***Carried***

**DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTEREST**

*State Secretary Tony Mavromatis reminds State Council members of their obligations as "Officers" under the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 to disclose all material personal interests that may arise with their union role as an elected Official to representative bodies of the AMWU.*

*Declaration forms are available throughout these proceedings for those Officers requiring to make a new disclosure.*

'State Council notes no Declarations were made for the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 State Council meeting'

***Carried***

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**Financial Report Resolution**

**AUTOMOTIVE, FOOD, METALS, ENGINEERING , PRINTING AND KINDRED INDUSTRIES UNION**

**VICTORIAN STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

State Council declares that:

- the document presented herewith to the meeting of the Committee of Management of the Automotive, Food, Metals, Engineering, Printing and Kindred Industries Union Victorian State Council on 11 March 2020 is a copy of the Full Report (including the Operating Report, the General Purpose Financial Report, and the Auditor's Report) for the financial year ended 30 September 2019, as referred to in section 265 to 268 of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009; and
- the Full Report for the financial year ended 30 September 2019 was provided to members on the AMWU website on 23 December 2019.

**Carried**

**STATE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

• **AMWU Dues Rates—Adult Apprentice**

*Resolution:*

*State Council calls for the 'N' membership rate to be included in the adult apprentice dues rates.*

**Carried**

• **Sexual Harassment & Workplace Bullying Policy**

*Resolution: (Change to Step 2)*

*if you decide to lodge a complaint, it will be lodged with the nominated State Union Official, if the matter concerns the nominated State Union official, then it will be referred to the relevant State Secretary, if the matter concerns the relevant State Secretary only then will it be referred to the National Secretary for review, otherwise it will be dealt with at a State level.*

**Carried**

• **National Strategic Plan Resource Fund**

*Resolution:*

*Where the hardship fund capping is not sustained, the NSC will fund the matter from other resources.*

**Carried**

• **National AMWU Property Review—Carlton Victoria**

State Council notes the resolution of the AMWU National Council.  
This presentation looks at whether the building is fit for purpose.

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**THE POSITIVES FOR REMAINING:**

**1. Member and Union friendly – Central to the following** (all within walking distance)

- ◆ Transport Hub
  - 5 major tram routes within 500 metres of office
  - 4 existing Train Stations (*Southern Cross for Country travellers, Flinders Street, Flagstaff and Melbourne Central*) and the soon to be completed Parkville Station in Grattan Street will be approximately 250 metres from the Office

All provide easy access to the office for our members in the suburbs and Regional Victoria as well as our Retired Members who predominately use public transport when attending meetings in the union Office.

- ◆ WorkCover for conciliations etc
- ◆ Medical facilities (in case of any emergency)
- ◆ Other Trade Unions – CFMMEU, AN&MF, CEPU, ASU, Meat Workers, Ambulance Workers, United Workers Union etc.
- ◆ Fair Work Commission
- ◆ Victorian Trades Hall Council
- ◆ ACTU
- ◆ Close to venues/locations for public meetings, demonstrations and public campaigning.

**2. Fit for Purpose**

- ◆ Fit for purpose training facilities with capacity to host
  - small to medium training sessions (approximately 48 per year)
  - Annual Victorian State-wide Delegates meetings
  - Annual National Forum with Delegates on-site
  - Possible - newly structured National Council meetings on-site
  - Quarterly State Council meetings
  - Annual Retired Members' Labour Day luncheon (Level 3)
  - ALP meetings as required
  - Campaigning activities (capacity on level 3 as well)
- ◆ PLUS the ability to rent out Level 3 facilities to approved organisations and thereby earning income for the Branch.

**3. Cost savings in staying**

- ◆ Refurbishing our existing building will be cheaper than buying and the fitting out another building to specifications. An important consideration given that we still have on-going budget challenges.
  - We can restructure the existing floor plan over the Ground floor and Level 1 which will provide the ability to secure a leasing arrangement for Level 2.

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**4. Moving forward**

Victoria's annual population growth is consistent and is currently the fastest growing State in Australia which makes the Queensberry Street a valuable asset now and into the future.

Also Melbourne University continues to excel academically, a point reflected in its continued position as the leading Australian university according to both the Academic Ranking of World Universities and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. While the university continues to grow and we remain within its sphere of influence property values will continue to increase into the future long term.

**RECENT SALE PRICES OF BUILDINGS WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE AREA.**

The Victorian Cancer Council's old building on the corner of Rathdowne and Victoria Streets sold for \$28 million. It has a height restriction on it due to being across the road from the Exhibition Building and the surrounding gardens.

Property in Cardigan Street sold for \$22.5 million. It had a height restriction of 8 floors.

The complex on the corner of Bouverie and Pelham Streets sold for about \$40 million.

Each of these buildings would've have required a Union specific fit-out which meant expenditure in addition to the initial purchase cost. Preliminary quotes have indicated approximately \$750,000 for these specific fit-outs.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

**Our Retired Members'**

At its Monday, January 20, 2020, Committee meeting RMD Victorian Branch Committee passed the following resolution.

*"This meeting of the Victorian RMD Committee expresses its deep concern at the possibility of being re-located from the Carlton South Office. Our concerns go to reduced access for our members, public transport issues, remaining in a central location. The meeting authorises the RMD Executive to voice our opposition to any proposal to sell of the Carlton South Building."*

**Past Experience**

Let's learn from our mistakes. The Union sold Elizabeth Street for approximately \$35 million, bought this building and spent a vast amount of money getting this building up to specification prior to moving in during November 2006.

Our old Elizabeth Street building has been on-sold in the meantime for approximately \$120 million and can procure long term leases for around \$1.5 million per level.

After genuine and considerable though it seems that there is no real issue nor urgency to validate the selling of the building at this time.

We believe this would be a regressive move, for short term gain.

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**THE NEXT STEP**

For all of the reasons stated above your State Steering Committee unanimously requests State Council's endorsement of the following resolution:

*"State Council endorses the report provided and agrees that the Building is fit for purpose for the Victorian Branch so that the branch is able to meet the requirements of the Victorian Branch Plan.*

*Also this March 2020 State Council resolutely opposes the sale of the 251 Queensberry Street, Carlton South, building and requests that there be no action taken until the State Steering Committee conducts a proper analysis of the proposal to consolidate our Victorian business requirements onto one floor.*

*The results of the analysis, in report form and including any potential costs, to be presented to the June 2020 State Council for Council's consideration.*

*State Council calls upon National Council to allocate funding to cover the costs of any report and or renovating the building to meet Branch requirements and improve the budget of the Union."*

**Caried**

**• National Council Meeting Format**

*Resolution:*

*Victorian State Council calls for the agenda to include 'General Business'*

**Caried**

**• Travel Associated Expenses for National Council — Attached Resolution 6**

*Victorian State Council notes the report from National Secretary and Brother Cozens.*

*The Victorian State Council raises the following concerns:*

- *This policy is perceived to be unfair, unequal which has the ability to create disunity at a National Level and between the States.*

**Therefore, the Victorian State Council calls for:**

*The National Council to maintain the current policy until there is an agreed arrangement between all States and the National Office.*

- 1.) The arrangement should take into consideration of current policies i.e. use resources where we have most membership.*
- 2.) The cost of National Council continue to equally share the cost between the States and National Office.*
- 3.) Treat all National Councillors equally whether or not they are Officers/Officials or Rank and File.*
- 4.) Appreciate Rank/Filers in participating at National Council.*

**• Voting of Acting Office Holders at the National Steering Committee**

State Council is ok with this Resolution from National Council

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• **AMWU Hardship Fund 'Support for members Experiencing domestic violence'**

State Council is ok with the National Council report

• **AMWU Vehicle Fleet Procurement**

If the object of the review is to endure good governance and transparency while ensuring the best dollar value on purchase is achieved it seems that the policy needs some modifications. Examples are:

1. The regular review of vehicles purchased to ensure best re-sale value and return to the Union. This may include models above the base vehicle we currently purchase.
2. Purchasing of vehicles where we still have Union presence/membership. At the moment this includes Ford, Toyota, Holden and Nissan. This is a principled position and one that should be maintained by our Union.
3. As a consideration to assist the budget State Offices need to have an input as, over the years, we have had a number of examples of various states being able to purchase vehicles at a cheaper rate which in turn would save members' money. Also model range to be reviewed; cars to suit drivers.
4. Turnover of our fleet as per Policy can be improved and a significant depreciation means another loss to the Union. The practice of many businesses suggests that fleets should be turned be between 60,000 to 85,000 kms or 3 years.

The current once a year turnover of the fleet also has financial implications with lower depreciation. It is proposed that the turnover of fleet should be twice a year to avoid this happening.

5. Once cars reach the established criteria they should be promptly turned-over. There are significant costs in turning over 12 or so vehicles Vs one.
6. Upon turn-over a simplified purchase plan for the drivers or for Rank and file delegates/members to buy the vehicle if they choose before it is auctioned.

***Caried***

• **Wildflower—Tickets**

*State Council supports the purchase of 20 tickets for the 'Wildflower' movie showing*

- State Steering Committee reports from December 2019 to March 2020
- Trades Hall Executive (Every second Friday)
- Minister of Energy (Lily)
- Boeing
  
- C0-Operative Steering Committee
- Affiliation cost to Trades Hall and Regionals
- WageGuard
- Industry Advisory Group

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- Rebuild

- Attending Delegates & OHS Rep Courses
- Branch Organisers meeting
- Property Council of Australia
- Wodonga Office
- Industry Capability Network
- AWU Discussions
- Neos Kosmos (Newspaper)
- National Steering Committee
- Minister of Training 7 Skills (Tierney)
- Weekly State Steering Committee
- North East Link Project
- B.I.G
- State Secretary is on Annual Leave from 15th June to 6th July 2020

**Moved and Seconded:** 'State Council notes the State Secretaries report'

**Carried**

## **ACCOUNTS**

**Moved and Seconded:** 'State Council endorses the Invoice from Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for 'AMWU Re: Craig Mathews for the total amount of \$2,544.00 Invoice No. 508602'

**Carried**

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## DELEGATIONS

### **Item 1**    **New Delegations**

Brother Darren Dwyer left on 3/01/2020 and we thank Brother Dwyer for his work with the AMWU and wish him all the best on his new endeavours. Brother David Fox will move off the Protect Income and take Brother Dwyer's position on the budget income.

Brother Rob Kennedy will be employed on L3 on the Protect Income on a 12 month delegation with a 6 month probation, starting in the Org Unit on 23/3/2020.

Sister Jenny James will start with the AMWU replacing Sister Gaynor Ramsay as a whole of union organiser paid as L3 Organiser on a 12 month delegation with a 6 month probation Sister James will commence with us on 23rd March 2020 and concentrate on Growth, Mapping and Organising in the Food Industry.

We thank Brother Frank Fairley who finishes up on 27th March 2020, Brother Fairley helped out in the OH&s department.

Congratulations to Brother Shawn White on completing his 6 month probation and look forward to Brother White continuing his good work in the OH&s department.

Brother Chris Spindler fixed term appointment finishes on 24th March, Brother Spindler fixed term appointment has been extended for a further 12 Months.

Sister Loula Kotsellis will move from a staff grade 6 to an officer level 2 from 16th March 2020.

***Moved and Seconded:***                    'State Council endorses the delegation report on block'

***Carried***

## GIFT REGISTER 2019

No gift declarations were given for this meeting

***Moved and Seconded:***

*'State Council notes there were no Gift Declarations made for March 11th State Council.'*

***Carried***

## DIVISIONAL REPORTS

***Moved and Seconded:***

*'State Council notes the divisional reports and the report Sister Sarah Ross tabled'*

***Carried***

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## **SUPPLIMENTARY ITEMS**

### **1.) Ballarat Trades & Labour Council**

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'Correspondence received from BTLC for their annual Labour Day dinner on 28th February 2020 'State Council approves the purchase of 20 tickets at \$100.00pp for a total \$2,000.00'*

### **2.) Geelong Trades Hall Council**

Correspondence received from GTHC for their annual Labour Day dinner on 13th March 2020

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'State Council approves the purchase of 20 tickets at \$95.00pp for a total \$1,900'*

### **3.) Justice for Refugees (Palm Sunday)**

Correspondence received for a donation to the Palm Sunday "Justice for Refugees" The 2020 walk for Justice for refugees is on Sunday 5th April at 2pm commencing at State L

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'State Council approves the donation of \$100.00 towards the Palm Sunday 'Justice for refugees' event.'*

### **4.) International Workers Memorial Day**

International Workers Memorial Day will be held on Thursday April 30, 2020. There will be a ceremony held at the "Remembrance Rock" at the Trades Hall at 5:00 pm to mourn the dead and fight for the living.

AMWU to purchase wreath for the event.

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'State Council approves the purchase for the wreath for the International Workers memorial day.'*

### **5.) May Day Rally and March**

May Day Rally and March will be held on Sunday 3rd May, AMWU to hire a truck for this event.

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'State Council approves the hire of the truck for the May day event on 3rd May.'*

### **Item 1 VTHC Labour Day Dinner**

Invite from VTHC to purchase tickets for their Labour Day Dinner. Tickets are \$160,00 per person and the event is on Friday 1st May 2020.

***Moved and Seconded:*** *'State Council endorses the purchase up to 10 tickets for the VTHC Labour Day Dinner on Friday 1st May 2020 with a total cost of \$1,600.00'*

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**2020 State Council Dates – 9:00am Start**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2020

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

***Meeting Close 4:10pm***