



RTBU

THE RTBU IS FIGHTING TO STOP LABOUR HIRE WAGE THEFT

This week, the RTBU commenced legal action in the Federal Court against rail labour hire company, Railtrain Pty Ltd, over the company's systematic underpayment of Locomotive Driver Assistant employees.

We are pursuing the recovery of unpaid wages for our members who took part in a program called "voluntary upskilling", which Railtrain has run since at least 2014 for people starting work as second person/driver assistants.

Applicants for these positions completed documentation consistent with employment, underwent medical tests, completed inductions and interviewed with management.

Successful applicants had to pay for their first aid and fatigue management training. They were required to complete up to **12 weeks of unpaid classroom and on-site training** before being rostered on to work for the company. In many cases, these unpaid training shifts were 12 hours long.

Railtrain also withholds certification documentation from workers for the first 6 months of employment. Workers are charged a fee if they leave before that time.

We are taking legal action to recover unpaid wages for our members, and to ensure they receive the certification documentation. We are also pursuing three senior Railtrain managers as we believe that they aided and abetted the underpayment, and knew it was wrong.

This action has only been possible because of the courage and strength of our members who have stood up for their rights, despite countless attempts by management to bully, threaten, intimidate anyone who took part.

We commend all our members who have stood together to ensure that Railtrain doesn't get away with this behaviour.

This fight is also about much more than just Railtrain - it's about stopping unfair and illegal labour hire practices in our industry wherever and whenever it occurs.

That's why the RTBU will always stand up to aggressive labour hire companies. Our members deserve nothing less.

For too long, bosses have used labour hire to undercut and reduce wages and weaken the power of workers to bargain for better employment agreements.

By taking this action, we are sending a loud message to all labour hire firms and the rail operators who use them: **the RTBU will never stand by and allow wages and conditions to be undercut or unpaid without a fight.**

What can you do?

The claim against Railtrain started when a member asked us: "Shouldn't I have been paid for this?" He saw something that wasn't right and spoke up about it. Now, the RTBU is taking the company to court.

Remember, if you have a question about your rights, do not hesitate to contact the Union. You can find the details of your branch at: www.rtbu.org.au/branches.

You're never alone when you're a member of the RTBU