

From: RTBU National <rtbu@rtbu.org.au>
Sent: Friday, 13 March 2026 1:37 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Notice of a Special National Council Meeting

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RTBU

Dear [REDACTED]

The National Executive, pursuant to rule 28(4), have determined to convene a Special meeting of the National Council for the purposes of dealing with business related to the rescission, alteration, and amendment to RTBU rules.

Delegates are hereby given notice that a Special meeting of the National Council will be held on 16 April 2026 at 10:00am (AEST) online via MS Teams to consider alterations to amend the Rules. This email constitutes the required notice required by rule 87(2).

Linked below Delegates will find:

- [Rules Report](#) – which includes the rules under consideration
- [Agenda of the Special National Council](#)

Please join the meeting on 16 April 2026 with the link below.

[Click here for the meeting link.](#)

Apologies and proxies may be provided to rtbu@rtbu.org.au ahead of the meeting.

In Unity,

Alex Claassens

NATIONAL SECRETARY

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SPECIAL NATIONAL COUNCIL Online | APRIL 2025

AGENDA | Thursday 16 April 2026

HELD ONLINE VIA MS TEAMS. This Special Meeting of the RTBU National Council is convened pursuant to rule 28(4) by the National Executive to consider alterations to the RTBU Rules.

FORMALITIES & NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

Introduction

President

Opening of meeting

Welcome

Roll Call

Delegates present were:

Apologies

Motion 1: Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the following apologies be accepted:

Proxies

Motion 2: Moved by:

Seconded by:

That leave be granted to allow the attendance for the following proxies:

Observers

Motion 3: Moved by:

Seconded by:

That leave be granted for the named people to attend as observers:

Sessional Arrangements

Motion 4: Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the sessional hours for National Council be from 10am until the matters on the agenda can be dealt with.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Minutes of the previous meeting

Motion 5: Moved by:

Seconded by:

That the minutes of the 15 & 16 October 2026 meeting of the National Council be adopted.

President Remarks

Motion to amend rules 73(xvii) and 73(xviii) to allow preliminary scrutiny**Motion 6: Moved by:****Seconded by:**

Per rule 87, this meeting of the National Council of the Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industry Union approves the amendment to rules 73(xvii) and 73(xviii) as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026.

CARRIED / LOST**Motion to amend rules to create sub-rule 87(7) to create a transitional rule for abolished and created offices****Motion 7: Moved by:****Seconded by:**

Per rule 87, this meeting of the National Council of the Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industry Union approves the rule change as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026 that creates sub-rule 87(7).

CARRIED / LOST**Motion to modify specific Queensland rules pertaining the Queensland Branch Council****Motion 8: Moved by:****Seconded by:**

This meeting of National Council:

1. Notes that a rule change amending rules 114(1), 117, 118, and 119, seeking to establish committees and convenor roles for Queensland Youth, Veterans, and the Indigenous Reference Group was passed at the 2025 Ordinary meeting of National Council.
2. Pursuant to rule 90(vii), the Council rescinds approval of amending rule 114(1) and creating rules 117, 118 and 119 as passed in motion 16 at the 2025 Ordinary meeting of the National Council.
3. Per rule 87, approves the amendment of rules 114(1), 114(3), 118, and the creation of rules 119(17) and 119(18) as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026.

CARRIED / LOST**National Secretary's Report**

Meeting closed at [time]

Alterations to the Rules of the RTBU proposed to be put to National Council

As Circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026

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Background

A Special National Council has been convened by the National Executive pursuant to rule 28(4) of the RTBU rules to consider a series of rule amendments. This Report provides a comprehensive overview of the changes being considered by the Council.

Changes to rules 73(xvii) and 73(xviii) are made following extensive consultation with the AEC regarding our election processes to improve their overall efficiency. The proposed rule 87(7) seeks to introduce a transitional rule, which will assist our current and future rule changes which abolish or create Offices of the Union. Amendment to rule 114, 118, and 119 continues rule changes proposed by the Queensland Branch at the 2025 Ordinary meeting of National Council to modify the composition of the Branch Council and establish relevant Offices.

Motions

Motion to amend rules 73(xvii) and 73(xviii) to allow preliminary scrutiny

Per rule 87, this meeting of the National Council of the Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industry Union approves the amendment to rules 73(xvii) and 73(xviii) as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026.

Motion to amend rules to create sub-rule 87(7) to create a transitional rule for abolished and created offices

Per rule 87, this meeting of the National Council of the Australian Rail, Tram & Bus Industry Union approves the rule change as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026 that creates sub-rule 87(7).

Motion to modify specific Queensland rules pertaining the Queensland Branch Council

This meeting of National Council:

1. Notes that a rule change amending rules 114(1), 117, 118, and 119, seeking to establish committees and convenor roles for Queensland Youth, Veterans, and the Indigenous Reference Group was passed at the 2025 Ordinary meeting of National Council.
2. Pursuant to rule 90(vii), the Council rescinds approval of amending rule 114(1) and creating rules 117, 118 and 119 as passed in motion 16 at the 2025 Ordinary meeting of the National Council.
3. Per rule 87, approves the amendment of rules 114(1), 114(3), 118, and the creation of rules 119(17) and 119(18) as circulated by the National Secretary on 13 March 2026.

Alterations to the Rules of the RTBU proposed to be put to National Council

Sub-Rule 73(xvii) – Preliminary Scrutiny

Delete sub-rule 73(xvii) and replace with the following proposed rule:

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
<p>(xvii) The Returning Officer shall, after the closing date for the ballot, collect the envelopes containing the ballot papers from the post office box. He/she shall check the details and declaration on the removable flap or label with the voters’ roll to ensure that no votes are cast except by those entitled to do so and that no voter has cast more votes than he/she is entitled to. He/she shall then remove the declaration envelopes marked “Ballot Paper” from the outside envelopes.</p>	<p>(xvii) The Returning Officer shall, after the closing date for the ballot, collect the envelopes containing the ballot papers from the post office box. He/she shall check the details and declaration on the removable flap or label with the voters’ roll to ensure that no votes are cast except by those entitled to do so and that no voter has cast more votes than he/she is entitled to. He/she shall then remove the declaration envelopes marked “Ballot Paper” from the outside envelopes. The following rules direct the process of preliminary scrutiny and counting of received ballots:</p> <p>(a) During the ballot, the Returning Officer may collect returned envelopes from the</p>	<p>(xvii) The following rules direct the process of preliminary scrutiny and counting of received ballots:</p> <p>(a) During the ballot, the Returning Officer may collect returned envelopes from the post box and keep them in safe custody until the commencement of the count.</p> <p>(b) The Returning Officer must make a final clearance of returned envelopes so that all envelopes received by the Returning Officer at the closing time for the ballot are admitted to the count.</p> <p>(c) No envelopes returned after the closing time of the ballot may be admitted to the scrutiny.</p> <p>(d) Before counting the votes, the Returning Officer must, in respect of each reply paid envelope:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">First, remove the declaration envelope from the reply-paid envelope;</p>

	<p>post box and keep them in safe custody until the commencement of the count.</p> <p>(b) The Returning Officer must make a final clearance of returned envelopes so that all envelopes received by the Returning Officer at the closing time for the ballot are admitted to the count.</p> <p>(c) No envelopes returned after the closing time of the ballot may be admitted to the scrutiny.</p> <p>(d) Before counting the votes, the Returning Officer must, in respect of each reply paid envelope:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">First, remove the declaration envelope from the reply-paid envelope;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Second, examine the voter's declaration attached to the declaration envelope; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Finally, mark off the voter's name against a copy of the roll of voters.</p> <p>(e) The Returning Officer may begin to carry out the requirements of sub-rule 73(xvii) d) before the closing time of the ballot.</p> <p>(f) A set of ballot material must be rejected and set aside if:</p>	<p>Second, examine the voter's declaration attached to the declaration envelope; and</p> <p>Finally, mark off the voter's name against a copy of the roll of voters.</p> <p>(e) The Returning Officer may begin to carry out the requirements of sub-rule 73(xvii) d) before the closing time of the ballot.</p> <p>(f) A set of ballot material must be rejected and set aside if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the declaration envelope has not been returned; b. the declaration on the declaration envelope has not been completed to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer; c. the Returning Officer is unable to identify the voter on the roll of voters. <p>(g) Where a voter returns more than one set of ballot material, the Returning Officer must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. decide which set to admit to the count; and b. in respect of the other set they must reject it, note on it that it has been rejected and the reason for the same, and set it aside.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the declaration envelope has not been returned; b. the declaration on the declaration envelope has not been completed to the satisfaction of the Returning Officer; c. the Returning Officer is unable to identify the voter on the roll of voters. (g) Where a voter returns more than one set of ballot material, the Returning Officer must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. decide which set to admit to the count; and b. in respect of the other set they must reject it, note on it that it has been rejected and the reason for the same, and set it aside. (h) Only after the close of the ballot period may the Returning Officer commence the count of ballots. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (h) Only after the close of the ballot period may the Returning Officer commence the count of ballots.
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Sub-Rule 73(xviii)

Delete and the word ‘The’ at the start of sub-rule 73(xviii) and insert

“After the close of the ballot period, the”

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
(xviii) The Returning Officer shall remove the removable flap or label from the declaration envelope marked “Ballot Paper” before removing the ballot papers. He/she shall admit the ballot papers properly marked and count those ballot papers.	(xviii) After the close of the ballot period, the The Returning Officer shall remove the removable flap or label from the declaration envelope marked “Ballot Paper” before removing the ballot papers. He/she shall admit the ballot papers properly marked and count those ballot papers.	xviii) After the close of the ballot period, the Returning Officer shall remove the removable flap or label from the declaration envelope marked “Ballot Paper” before removing the ballot papers. He/she shall admit the ballot papers properly marked and count those ballot papers.

Sub-Rule 87(7) – Transitional Rule for Abolished and Created Offices

Insert after sub-rule 87(6):

- (7) This clause applies only where the ARTBIU has resolved under its rules to create or abolish an office. The creation or abolition of any offices will have no operative effect until the next scheduled election held in accordance with Part VIII of these rules. At that election, all newly established offices will be contested, and all offices designated for abolition will terminate upon the conclusion of that election.

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
<i>No Rule currently Exists</i>	(7) This clause applies only where the ARTBIU has resolved under its rules to create or abolish an office. The creation or abolition of any offices will have no operative effect until the next scheduled election held in accordance with Part VIII of these rules. At that election, all newly established offices will be contested, and all offices designated for abolition will terminate upon the conclusion of that election.	(7) This clause applies only where the ARTBIU has resolved under its rules to create or abolish an office. The creation or abolition of any offices will have no operative effect until the next scheduled election held in accordance with Part VIII of these rules. At that election, all newly established offices will be contested, and all offices designated for abolition will terminate upon the conclusion of that election.

Queensland Rule Changes

114(1) – Composition of QLD Branch Council

That proposed alterations carried at the National Council to amend rule 114(1) and introduce rules 117, 118, and 119 be rescinded.

That the following proposed rule changes be made:

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
<p>114(1) The Branch Council shall (1) The Branch Council shall comprise the Branch President, the Senior Branch Vice President, the three Junior Branch Vice-Presidents, the Branch Secretary, the Assistant Branch Secretary, together with the following delegates from Branch Divisions and Regions:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Branch Divisional President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Vice-President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Junior Vice President Tram and Bus Division The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Coal Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Passenger Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional</p>	<p>114(1) The Branch Council shall comprise the Branch President, the Senior Branch Vice President, the three Junior Branch Vice-Presidents, the Branch Secretary, the Assistant Branch Secretary, together with the following delegates from Branch Divisions and Regions, and Convenors:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Branch Divisional President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Vice-President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Junior Vice President Tram and Bus Division The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Coal Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Passenger Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional</p>	<p>114(1) The Branch Council shall comprise the Branch President, the Senior Branch Vice President, the three Junior Branch Vice-Presidents, the Branch Secretary, the Assistant Branch Secretary, together with the following delegates from Branch Divisions and Regions and Convenors:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Branch Divisional President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Vice-President, Tram & Bus Division The Branch Divisional Junior Vice President Tram and Bus Division The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Coal Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional</p>

<p>Committee Freight Secretary A Delegate of the Tram and Bus Division A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Southern District The Branch Divisional Secretary,</p>	<p>Committee Freight Secretary A Delegate of the Tram and Bus Division A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Southern District The Branch Divisional Secretary, Administrative Supervisory,</p>	<p>Passenger Secretary The Branch Locomotive Sub-Divisional Committee Freight Secretary A Delegate of the Tram and Bus Division A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Rail Operations Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Infrastructure Division from the Southern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Northern District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Southern District The Branch Divisional Secretary, Administrative Supervisory,</p>
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<p>Administrative Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division A Delegate from the North West Region A Delegate from the Central West Region A Delegate from the South West Region A female delegate from the Southern District (All Divisions) A female delegate from the Central and Northern Districts (All Divisions) A delegate of the Operations Division from the Private Sector The Branch Divisional President, Administrative, Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division The Branch Organiser for the Tram and Bus Division whilst so ever that that position is an elected position</p>	<p>Technical and Professional Division A Delegate from the North West Region A Delegate from the Central West Region A Delegate from the South West Region A female delegate from the Southern District (All Divisions) A female delegate from the Central and Northern Districts (All Divisions) A delegate of the Operations Division from the Private Sector The Branch Divisional President, Administrative, Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division The Convenor of the RTBU Indigenous Reference Group The Convenor of RTBU Youth The current President of RTBU Veterans The Branch Organiser for the Tram and Bus Division whilst so ever that that position is an elected position</p>	<p>Division from the Central District A Delegate of the Fleet Manufacture, Overhaul, Maintenance and Service Division from the Southern District The Branch Divisional Secretary, Administrative Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division A Delegate from the North West Region A Delegate from the Central West Region A Delegate from the South West Region A female delegate from the Southern District (All Divisions) A female delegate from the Central and Northern Districts (All Divisions) A delegate of the Operations Division from the Private Sector The Branch Divisional President, Administrative, Supervisory, Technical and Professional Division The Convenor of the RTBU Indigenous Reference Group The Convenor of RTBU Youth</p>
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		<p>The current President of RTBU Veterans</p> <p>The Branch Organiser for the Tram and Bus Division whilst so ever that that position is an elected position</p>
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114(3) – Ex-officio status of President of RTBU Veterans

Insert after 114(2):

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
No current rule exists	114(3) The President of RTBU Veterans is an ex-officio role with no voting rights, they are otherwise provided attendance and speaking rights at meetings of the Branch Council.	114(3) The President of RTBU Veterans is an ex-officio role with no voting rights, they are otherwise provided attendance and speaking rights at meetings of the Branch Council.

118 – Creation Of Offices – Convenor of RTBU Youth And IRG

Insert to sub-rule 118(1), ‘Convenor of RTBU Youth’ and ‘Convenor of the RTBU Indigenous Reference Group’ as Officers of the Branch

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
<p>(1) The Branch Offices are:- Branch President Senior Branch Vice-President Junior Branch Vice-Presidents Branch Secretary Assistant Branch Secretaries Branch Divisional Presidents Branch Divisional Vice-Presidents Branch Divisional Secretaries Branch Divisional Delegates to the Branch Council Regional Delegates to the Branch Council Sub-Divisional, District or Regional Representatives on Branch Divisional Committees District Executive Presidents District Executive Vice-Presidents Female Delegates to the Branch Council</p>	<p>(1) The Branch Offices are:- Branch President Senior Branch Vice-President Junior Branch Vice-Presidents Branch Secretary Assistant Branch Secretaries Branch Divisional Presidents Branch Divisional Vice-Presidents Branch Divisional Secretaries Branch Divisional Delegates to the Branch Council Regional Delegates to the Branch Council Sub-Divisional, District or Regional Representatives on Branch Divisional Committees District Executive Presidents District Executive Vice-Presidents Female Delegates to the Branch Council Convenor of RTBU Youth Convenor of the RTBU Indigenous Reference Group</p>	<p>(1) The Branch Offices are:- Branch President Senior Branch Vice-President Junior Branch Vice-Presidents Branch Secretary Assistant Branch Secretaries Branch Divisional Presidents Branch Divisional Vice-Presidents Branch Divisional Secretaries Branch Divisional Delegates to the Branch Council Regional Delegates to the Branch Council Sub-Divisional, District or Regional Representatives on Branch Divisional Committees District Executive Presidents District Executive Vice-Presidents Female Delegates to the Branch Council Convenor of RTBU Youth Convenor of the RTBU Indigenous Reference Group</p>

119 (17) – Special Provisions for Convenor of RTBU Youth

Insert after sub-rule 119(16) the following:

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
No current rule exists	<p>(17) The Office of Convenor of RTBU Youth:</p> <p>17.1 Shall be held by a financial member of the Branch who is no older than 35 years of age at the date on which nominations open.</p> <p>17.2 Shall be elected by a secret ballot of all financial members of the Branch 35 years of age and younger at the date on which nominations open.</p>	<p>(17) The Office of Convenor of RTBU Youth:</p> <p>17.1 Shall be held by a financial member of the Branch who is no older than 35 years of age at the date on which nominations open.</p> <p>17.2 Shall be elected by a secret ballot of all financial members of the Branch 35 years of age and younger at the date on which nominations open.</p>

119 (18) – Special Provisions for Convenor of RTBU Indigenous Reference Group

Insert after proposed sub-rule 119(17) the following:

Current Rule	Change	Proposed Rule
No current rule exists	<p>(18) The Office of Convenor of RTBU Indigenous Reference Group:</p> <p>18.1 Shall be held by a financial member of the Branch who at the date on which nominations open is identified as being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member.</p> <p>18.2 Shall be elected by a secret ballot of all financial members who at the date on which nominations open is identified as being an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander member.</p> <p>18.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member means a member who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, is accepted as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander by their community and has identified themselves to the Union as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.</p>	<p>(18) The Office of Convenor of RTBU Indigenous Reference Group:</p> <p>18.1 Shall be held by a financial member of the Branch who identifies at the date on which nominations open as being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member.</p> <p>18.2 Shall be elected by a secret ballot of all financial members who identify at the date on which nominations open as being an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member.</p> <p>18.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander member means a member who is of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, is accepted as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander by their community and has identified themselves to the Union as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.</p>