



RTBU

FOOTPLATE

**NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH / LOCOMOTIVE
DIVISION**

ISSUE 07: MARCH

COVID-19 Social Distancing for Train Crew

Your Senior RTBU Locomotive Division Representatives met with Sydney Trains Train Crew Executive Friday 20 March to discuss growing concerns regarding the impact of COVID-19 on our Members on the front line.

Of concern is ensuring that Government health recommendations regarding social distancing are incorporated into train driver work practices.

Transport NSW have advised that they intend to run as close to the standard timetable for as long as feasible to support social distancing for passengers. We believe it is only right that the health and safety of operational employees be given the same consideration.

Arising from this meeting is an agreement to impose a “1 plus 1” restriction on the driver’s cab. This means only the Driver and one other person can be in the cab at any time in order to meet social distancing recommendations.

This has resulted in the cancellation of scheduled training which would have been in breach of social distancing recommendations by having four or more drivers in the cab. These same social distancing recommendations will be applied to other crew facilities such as meal rooms, stand by rooms, training facilities and other similar locations. These actions have been assigned to a joint Senior RTBU and Train Crew Taskforce commencing the week of 23 March 2020. Where crew facilities need to be inspected and/or additional facilities required, local representatives will be nominated to be involved in their respective sector to support the taskforce.

Your Union is continuing to work with Sydney Trains around the provision of required cleaning products like hand sanitiser and disinfectant wipes. Members should immediately advise their Shift Manager and their local rep if they have any issues in accessing wipes or hand sanitiser so issues can be resolved as soon as possible.

The Locomotive Division will continue to represent the health, safety and welfare of hard-working Members continuing to perform in this incredibly trying time for society. Members should be proud of their efforts in delivering an exceptional service in the face of uncertainty and adversity.

Members will be advised of further developments after the taskforce meets. If Members have any questions, please contact your Local Rep or Locomotive Division Head Office.

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