

Transport Workers' Union of Australia

VIC/TAS Branch

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www.twu.asn.au

Branch Secretary

Mem Suleyman

26 June 2024

Lorie Argus
CEO
Melbourne and Launceston Airport
Arrival Dr
Melbourne Airport VIC 3045

Dear Ms Argus,

Re: Melbourne Airport Rail Link Mediator Report

I am writing to you as the Branch Secretary of the Transport Workers Union Vic/Tas, representing the dedicated workforce at Melbourne Airport, including aircraft refuelers, baggage handlers, freight handlers, caterers, drivers, cabin crew, pilots, cleaners, security screeners, and work safety officers.

The recent recommendations from independent mediators regarding the Melbourne Airport Rail Link project have provided a clear and decisive pathway forward. Further delays to the urgent commencement of these critical works will only hurt the workers who need affordable and efficient means to reach the airport, the aviation operators and airlines that engage them, and the travelling public your airport is here to serve.

The current public transport options serving the Airport are woefully inadequate. With only four bus routes available to over 18,000 workers and 84,000 customers daily, the need for a robust and reliable public transport network is glaringly obvious. The implementation of the Melbourne Airport Rail Link is not only long overdue but is essential for the continued efficiency and safety of operations.

Worker shortages after the pandemic have savaged the aviation industry and continue to cause significant issues for workers, passengers and businesses. Aviation workers are working hard to rebuild good, secure airport jobs which were decimated under 15 years of the Qantas model to fragment the workforce, lower wages, and illegally outsource 1700 ground workers. Inadequate public transport options to reach the airport are only adding more pressure to recruitment and turnover challenges.

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The airport has an important role in lifting standards across aviation by enforcing fair, safe and sustainable employment terms and conditions through contracts with airlines and service providers. So too does the airport have a responsibility to ensure workers critical to the function of keeping an airport open and aircraft flying are able to get to and from work.

Workers and the community are aware that Melbourne Airport is making eye-watering profit from car parks, to the tune of \$106.2 million in just the last financial year. Workers and passengers expect and deserve more than to be price-gouged on parking.

We need a safe, sustainable aviation industry. This is critical for airports as much as airlines, staff, the community and the economy.

This is your opportunity, and your responsibility, to be an airport authority committed to the well-being of workers and travellers alike. The independent mediator has made clear recommendations; it is now up to you to act.

The time for delays and obstruction is over. The TWU urges Melbourne Airport to return to the negotiating table immediately and engage in mature and productive dialogue to expedite the commencement of this project. We look forward to your response.

Mem Suleyman

Branch Secretary

Transport Workers Union

Victorian & Tasmanian Branch