

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Monday 16 May, 2016

**AUSTRALIAN AUTO WORKERS WELCOME  
LABOR'S COMMITMENT TO HELP FOR  
MANUFACTURING**

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has welcomed Labor's plan to assist regions affected by the end of vehicle building in Australia.

AMWU National Secretary Paul Bastian said Opposition Leader Bill Shorten's announcement of the *Manufacturing Transition Boost* was sorely needed in Victoria and South Australia where state economies would take a hit once vehicle building ends.

"Maintaining jobs and growth was the furthest thing from the minds of the Coalition's front-benchers when they dumped the car industry," Mr Bastian said.

"It's not just the workers in vehicle-building factories who will be affected, but also thousands more working for companies in the car-building supply chain."

"Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey, aided and abetted by Malcolm Turnbull will go down in history as being responsible for losing the car industry in Australia."

Mr Bastian said if Labor won the Federal Election, it would need to move quickly to take the necessary steps to assist in the creation of new jobs for skilled workers in advanced manufacturing.

"Manufacturing has been all but ignored by the Coalition," Mr Bastian said.

"We have heard a lot of talk from Malcolm Turnbull about innovation and new opportunities in the emerging global economy but the time for talk is over."

"Auto workers have skills that can successfully transition into a range of new manufacturing jobs and if it takes Labor to recognise the importance of kick-starting manufacturing in Victoria and South Australia, our members would welcome that."

Mr Bastian said the shut down in auto manufacturing would affect more than 45,000 workers and it was vitally important that policies were put in place to assist manufacturing to recover.

# Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union

## MEDIA RELEASE



Mr Bastian said the AMWU was concerned that both parties had yet to commit to spend the full amount budgeted for the Automotive Transformation Scheme which was designed to assist regions, companies and workers affected by the auto-industry closures.

Over \$800m remains unspent from the Automotive Transformation Scheme and that is funding that is sorely needed to help workers transition to other parts of the manufacturing economy.

Media contact John Hill 0412197079