

MEDIA RELEASE

Government backdown on ATS 18 months too late

Tuesday 10 March 2015

MEDIA CONFERENCE

AMWU National Vehicle Secretary Dave Smith will hold a Press Conference on the ATS with vehicle workers.

2pm | Toyota Factory Gates, Port Melbourne

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) is claiming a victory on the Abbott Government's backdown of their planned cuts to the Automotive Transformation Scheme.

But it is still too little, too late.

"Today the Government will make official what we've known for a while - they can't go ahead with their \$900million cuts to the ATS," said AMWU National Vehicle Secretary Dave Smith.

"This is a huge win for the workers in South Australia, Victoria and around the country. 50,000 workers can breath a little easier because their industry should keep going to 2017, rather than closing any day.

"We thank the Opposition, Cross Bench and Independent Senators who kept the pressure on and supported these workers and their industry.

"We await the full details of the Government's plan to be announced this morning."

"But what we know for sure is that we've had 18 months of uncertainty and inaction, and threats to further cuts for Australia's auto sector.

"This Government delay means that the industry has stagnanted further, and thousands more jobs are at risk in the componants sector.

"Without this delay, right now we'd be watching the industry transform, change and grow. The decline in the Australian dollar would be supporting the componants sector to diversify and transform – saving thousands of jobs and growin the economy in Victoria and South Australia.

"Further, we shouldn't forget that it was these ATS cuts and the Government's Trade Agreements that the industry cited as the main barrier to continuing manufacturing in Australia.

"Now that the Government is walking away from these cuts, you could be forgiven for asking – what was the point?"

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