

MEDIA RELEASE

Time for all parties to focus on secure jobs for Queenslanders

Thursday 8 January

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has called on all political parties to focus on jobs and secure employment for Queenslanders, as mining company BMA puts more jobs in the lurch.

The call comes as the union works with Hastings Deering members, who were notified on New Years Eve that their jobs were in jeopardy.

Mining company BMA has notified Hastings Derring of their decision to cancel Truck Fleet maintenance contracts at both the Saraji and Peak Downs operations.

Hastings Employees were shocked when notified of BMA's decision and also stunned at the timing of the notification.

"It's not a very 'happy new year' for these workers," said AMWU Official Brad Hansen.

"Workers can't understand how BMA made this decision, especially since Hastings Deering has taken the machine availability rates from 50% to between 80-90%.

"Further, site reports show Hastings Deering have not had a lost time injury (LTI) for over 500 days and they have continued to provide the best availability for the 797F fleet to date."

AMWU Assistant State Secretary Terry Bradley said the Union is concerned that BMA are simply attempting to reset industry terms and conditions.

"During 2014 we saw BMA use the threat of removing contracts to force suppliers to dramatically reduce the wages and conditions of their employees," Mr Bradley said.

"In a number of cases, even where employees reluctantly agreed to reduce wages, they were made redundant shortly afterwards and replaced with Labour Hire."

The AMWU are seeking an urgent meeting with Hastings Deering Management to discuss the impacts of the BMA decision for employees.

"This election, we're hoping all political parties really focus on the issue of secure jobs for Queenslanders," said Mr Bradley.

"No matter who forms Government we need politicians to be focusing on good jobs, and an economy that works for everyone."

ENDS