

Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union



MEDIA RELEASE

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Downer EDI \$1billion Pacific National deal shows we can build them here

The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) has called on Premier Mike Baird to back the Hunter rail industry following the announcement of a \$1billion maintenance deal between Downer EDI and Pacific National

"This announcement highlights that the Hunter has a world class rail manufacturing and maintenance industry. Pacific National sees that, why can't Mike Baird?" said AMWU NSW Secretary, Tim Ayres.

"This is one of the Australia's largest private rail operations giving a vote of confidence to the Hunter rail manufacturing and maintenance industry. It will go some way into ensuring that the Hunter will sustain high quality, high skilled jobs for future generations" he said.

The announcement by Downer EDI comes at a time when the government is considering whether or not build 500 new intercity carriages locally or overseas.

"These decisions alone are not enough. For the Hunter rail industry to prosper, we need a vibrant private sector working in conjunction with a NSW government that is willing to put our local industry first when it comes to building our trains" said Mr Ayres.

The announcement by Downer EDI will also involve the closure of their Port Waratah site.

"Right now, we are in discussions with Downer EDI about ways we can mitigate any job losses that may come as a result of the Port Waratah closure. We remain hopeful that some or all of the Port Waratah jobs can be absorbed into other parts of the business" said Mr Ayres.

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