

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 24 March

### Shipbuilders and rail workers rally to put jobs on the electoral map

**Rally for manufacturing jobs  
Today at Midday  
Assembling at Newcastle Number One Sports Ground and marching to Civic Park**

1000 local manufacturing workers will take to the streets at noon today to rally for local manufacturing jobs.

“Since Christmas, 267 workers in the rolling stock industry in the Hunter have lost their jobs. Another 200 have lost their jobs at Forgacs just this month” said AMWU NSW Secretary, Tim Ayres.

“Almost 1 in 10 Hunter workers are out of a job and Mike Baird is sending key infrastructure projects interstate and offshore” he said.

The rally coincides with the state election where the electorates of Newcastle, Swansea, Maitland, and Port Stephens are being closely watched by election analysts.

Over the last 12 months a string of decisions by NSW Government are adding to the concerns of manufacturing workers in the region. These include:

- the decision to exclude shipbuilding company, Forgacs, from the tender process for 6 new passenger ferries for the Sydney Harbour fleet
- the failure to commit to building \$2.8 billion worth of new intercity passenger trains locally
- the refusal by the Baird Government to engage with the Abbott government to ensure the Hunter is getting a share of millions of dollars with of defence procurement contracts
- the refusal to pressure the Abbott Government to ensure the next fleet of submarines are built in Australia

“When it comes to manufacturing jobs, Mike Baird has been asleep at the wheel. He is sending crucial infrastructure contracts offshore and he will not lift a finger to convince his mates in Canberra to deliver defence contracts locally” said Mr Ayres.

As part of the election campaign, workers in the industry have been asking candidates for Hunter seats to sign a pledge to deliver for local manufacturing jobs.

“We plan to name and shame candidates that refuse to sign our pledge to delivering local jobs from government procurement contracts” said Mr Ayres.

“We are rallying to send a message to local MPs; if you care about keeping your job, you need to start caring about the jobs of manufacturing workers across the Hunter” he said.

Candidates that have signed the pledge will be announced at the rally tomorrow.

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