



Paul Bastian, AMWU National Secretary

LABOR TO BLOCK CHINA JOBS THREAT

A new television ad about the threat to jobs from the China free trade agreement hit screens this week as the union campaign against the deal picked up strength.

The ad is paid for by the AMWU, CFMEU and ETU and started screening after the weekend's ALP National Conference agreed to block the China deal in Parliament until it includes a proper package of skills testing and safeguards on bringing in foreign labour.

The TV advertisement backs in radio ads that have already been running.

In addition, AMWU members have taken to the streets in protest against the deal – including at the ALP conference, and in Brisbane and Sydney.

Last weekend's ALP Conference endorsed a push by unions to re-negotiate the labour chapters of the agreement, which removes local skills testing for Chinese workers.

It also allows entire labour forces to be brought into Australia for projects worth over \$150 million which have as little as \$22.5 million of Chinese investment.

Unions are concerned the CHAFTA will unfairly lock out local skilled workers, undermine Australian sovereignty, drive



The new TV ad standing up to the job destroying China FTA, which started screening during the finale of Masterchef. View the ad on the AMWU Facebook and YouTube channel (AMWUTV).

down wages and conditions, endanger safety and exploit any foreign employees brought into the country.

“Unions have blown the whistle on the Abbott Government's free trade deals,” AMWU National President Andrew Dettmer said.

“The details finally released by this secretive Government has revealed that manufacturing jobs will be sacrificed in return for dubious gains for agricultural and mining exports.”

“The more the community learns about these secretive trade deals the angrier

they become. It's vital we keep the pressure on the Abbott Government”.

Mr Dettmer noted the hysterical reaction of Trade Minister Andrew Robb – in Hawaii to negotiate the TPP (Trans Pacific Partnership) – in attacking the unions' campaign on labour conditions.

“Mr. Robb and PM Tony Abbott can set the record straight if they believe our assertions are wrong. They haven't done so, they just keep criticising and denigrating anyone who speaks out.” ■

WORKSHOP MEMBERS STAND UP ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Union members at a major machinery assembly depot have voted up their state's first family violence leave clause in an automotive workshop.

The members at Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics in Victoria pushed for the family violence leave clause to ensure workplace protection was available for everyone on site, prompting WWL to extend the policy to the office staff as well.

It has now gone to WWL workplaces Australia-wide – a great win for union members.

The new agreement coincides with last weekend's ALP National Conference, which backed the trade union movement's push for paid family violence leave to be available for all workers.

AMWU delegate Andrew Otte said members felt they needed to take responsibility to ensure there was support for victims of family violence.

“It's not just for us, the focus is also on the impact of partner and family violence,” Mr Otte said.

“We've heard what Rosie Batty has had

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WORKSHOP MEMBERS STAND UP ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

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to say too, people trying to cope with this need proper protection and care at work to help them.”

The new agreement at WWL allows an employee trying to deal with a domestic violence situation to access 12 days carers-personal leave or annual leave, plus unpaid leave if required.

WWL will take action to protect that employee from unwanted visitors to the worksite or any attempted phone or other contact while at work. A security guard will escort an employee to their car, if requested.

“This is the first agreement I’ve done among auto workers which includes a family violence provision – it’s a breakthrough,” said AMWU organiser Clinton Bannam.

WWL Human Resources head Maree Marston said the agreement also guarantees unlimited access to a confidential assistance program.

“It was part of the union’s log of claims, but something we felt we must include across the company. It’s making sure



Protecting all workmates: AMWU members Deniz Yavul (left) and Ivan Deak (right) with fellow WWL employees Robyn Lawson-Roberts and Essener Sagdic.

people are safe when they are here,” she said.

The new union agreement also delivers improved replacement of work clothes, more breaks in summer heat and a pay rise of 2.6 per cent.

WWL handles final assembly and turnout of foreign trucks and agricultural equipment. ■

Any member with personal problems can contact AMWU Care, a 24/7 confidential and independent counselling advice service, on 1800 206 316.

SHIPBUILDING PRESSURE BUILDS ON COALITION MPs

The success of last week’s National Shipbuilding Day of Action has been immediate with Federal Government MPs eager to meet our members and officials for in-depth talks.

Rallies of shipbuilders and their families nationwide rammed home to message to Coalition MPs that their communities could not afford the loss of jobs as shipyards in the Hunter (Forgacs), Melbourne and Perth (BAE Systems) and Adelaide (ASC) face wind-downs of work.

AMWU National Secretary Glenn Thompson said the willingness of over 20 Coalition and crossbench MPs to meet AMWU members and officials when a delegation visits Canberra in two weeks showed the politicians understood their jobs were also on the line, particularly in South Australia.

“The big numbers at our rallies and the wide media coverage in those cities has left Coalition MPs in no doubt whatsoever they are accountable for the decisions of the Abbott Cabinet not to spend on a continual build of navy ships, which is now resulting in widespread redundancies,” Mr Thompson said.

“We are urging them to stand up for their

voters, stand up for shipyard jobs in their communities by making that clear when they speak with Ministers and in the Liberals’ party room.”

Mr Thompson spoke at the rally in Adelaide (pictures: right), where over 600 workers from ASC – on their RDO – marched to the Commonwealth building where Federal Ministers Christopher Pyne and Jamie Briggs have offices.

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon told the rally: “If the subs are built in France or in Germany or Japan, it will be case of au revoir, auf wiedersehen and sayonara to the Liberals’ election chances.”

The rally was also addressed by SA Minister for Defence Industries Martin Hamilton-Smith.

He made it clear that the state and nation needed a full local build of 12 submarines as the Coalition promised at last election, not a “hybrid” overseas-local build of just eight subs rumoured for the upcoming Defence White Paper.

He said the Navy wanted and needed 12 locally-built subs, a number vital to sustain a continual build and a flow-on maintenance industry. ■

