



# THE CHINA FREE TRADE DEAL WILL SHUT OUT LOCALS FROM JOBS

Conversation notes for campaigners

## What Abbott's free trade agreement with China is really about

Unemployment is up and youth unemployment is at 13.4% but the Abbott Government wants to let:

- Employers take on a worker from China without having to advertise the job locally first;
- Chinese companies bring in an entire workforce from overseas to work on projects worth over \$150 million with lower skills, lower level English and lower wages than is allowed under the current visa program. Not only that, but he wants to allow the likes of Gina Rinehart to partner with Chinese companies and also have the right to bring in overseas workforce;
- Overseas tradies, including electricians and mechanics, no longer need to meet Australian qualifications and standards.
- An estimated 158,000 Australian workers could lose their jobs. This could rise if Abbott concludes similar deals with India and the US.
- Outrageously, Abbott wants to give Chinese companies the ability to sue the Australian Government if they introduce laws that might impact upon their profits. This could lead to no minimum staffing ratios, privatisation and no minimum qualification standards. This could impact upon every workplace from childcare to construction.

### The Questions (for meetings & 1:1 conversations)

1. What do you think will happen to wages and conditions if Abbott gets away with this deal?
2. Why would the Abbott want to give jobs to overseas nationals ahead of Australians when unemployment is so high in Australia?
3. What would it be like to be an overseas national working at the mercy of this deal?
4. Australia is a proud multicultural society, what could be some of the potential impacts on our community?
5. Who wins in this deal?

6. How long do you think it will take for the likes of Rinehart to exploit overseas workers and get rid of Australian workers?
7. What message does it send to the rest of the world that Abbott would prefer to undercut wages, turn a blind eye to exploitation and rob over 158,000 Australians of a job?
8. What does this say about where Tony Abbott's priorities lie?
9. What will be the consequences if he is not stopped?
10. How many people do you know right now who are unemployed and looking for an opportunity right now?
11. How safe would you feel working with an unqualified electrician or motor mechanic?

### Action/Solution

Imagine being part of a campaign where Abbott had to back down and put our future first. We know that before this secret deal is adopted the majority of MPs and Senators need to vote for it. We did it before with Medicare and we can do it again by being active in the Build a Better Future campaign.

Today we can decide to do something about this or let Tony Abbott get away with putting local jobs last. In order to win you can:

1. **Email** your local MP and let them know your concerns: [australianunions.org.au/china\\_fta](http://australianunions.org.au/china_fta)
2. **Sign up** to the Build a Better Future campaign: [australianunions.org.au/volunteer](http://australianunions.org.au/volunteer)
3. **Let your neighbour, your workmates and your family know** what Abbott's secret deal with China is all about.
4. **Attend a local rally** to stop the China FTA  
For more details about the events visit: [australianunions.org.au](http://australianunions.org.au)

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**BUILD A BETTER FUTURE**  
FIGHT FOR OUR LIVING STANDARDS





# THE CHINA FREE TRADE DEAL

## Stop the China FTA - Workplace Resolution

We the members of \_\_\_\_\_

(Union Name)

do not support Australia's Free Trade Agreement with China.

It is a job-destroying trade agreement that has been negotiated in secret. We need to create jobs for local workers, not destroy them. With youth unemployment at crisis levels we cannot afford to stand by and watch as our kids miss out on job opportunities.

**Australian workers can't afford this Free Trade Agreement.  
We call on the Abbott Government to stop the China FTA.**

### We commit to the following actions:

1. Circulate and complete the petition calling on Tony Abbott to stop the China FTA
2. Attend a rally coming to your city:

City	Date	Time	Location
Melbourne	24th July	8am	Convention Centre, South Bank near South Wharf, Melbourne
Melbourne	28th August	12noon	TBA
Brisbane	27th July	12noon	Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane Outside the Commonwealth Law Courts on North Quay
Queensland	17th August	12noon	Cnr Yarroon St and Hanson Road, Gladstone
Sydney	31st July	12noon	NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street, Sydney
Canberra	10th August	12noon	Garema Place, Civic, Canberra
Perth	25th August	12noon	Parliament House, Harvest Terrace, Perth
Devonport	27th August	12noon	TBA
Adelaide	28th July	7pm	Ingle Farm Recreation Centre, Cnr Roopena St & Beovich Rd, Ingle Farm
Darwin	23rd August	12noon	Bicentennial Park, Esplanade, Darwin
Hobart	14th August	1pm	Parliament House Lawns, Hobart

3. Encourage everyone to get active in the Build a Better Future campaign at [australianunions.org.au](http://australianunions.org.au)



# THE CHINA FREE TRADE DEAL

Stop the China FTA - Fact Sheet

## STOP THE CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

TONY ABBOTT'S ONLY PLAN FOR JOBS IS TO SEND THEM OFFSHORE.

AUSTRALIA CAN'T AFFORD THIS. UNEMPLOYMENT IS TOO HIGH, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.  
AND NOW HIS SECRET TRADE DEAL WITH CHINA WILL TIP US OVER THE EDGE.

### WHY THE CHINA FTA IS BAD

1. An employer can take on a worker from China without having to advertise the job locally first.
2. A Chinese company investing 15% in a project worth at least \$150 million can bring in lower-skilled overseas workers, with lower-level language skills and lower wages than allowed under the standard visa program.
3. It could cost as many as 158,000 local jobs because of cheap Chinese imports that are unfairly subsidised and do not meet Australian standards. Half of Australian businesses surveyed say the deal will hurt them and only 11% say it will help.
4. The agreement will allow Chinese companies to sue Australian governments that pass laws which affect their profits. This is how Phillip Morris has been able to sue us for plain cigarette packaging laws that are saving lives.
5. This trade deal has no commitments to respect workers' rights. China is one of the ten worst places to be a worker according to the international trade union movement.
6. This deal was negotiated in secret by the Abbott Government. Big business might have been a part of the negotiations, but ordinary working people weren't and it shows.



**We can stop laws being passed in our Parliament that will put the China Free Trade Agreement into effect.**



Email your local Member of Parliament today to tell them that you do not support the China FTA because you want our Government to create good jobs for local workers, not trade them away.

Visit:

[AustralianUnions.org.au/china\\_fta](http://AustralianUnions.org.au/china_fta)



Talk to your friends and family and share your thoughts on the China FTA with your social media networks. Ask others to email their MP too.



Become a Build A Better Future campaign volunteer and join the fight for our living standards. Stand up for jobs for our kids and our communities.

Visit:

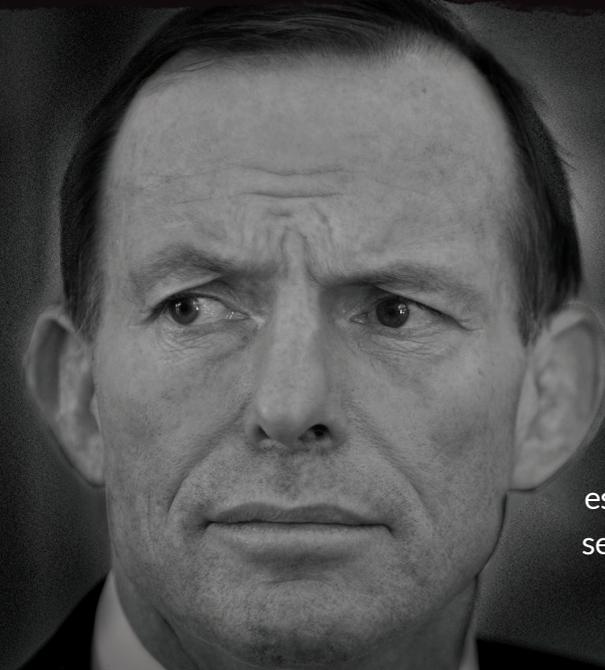
[AustralianUnions.org.au/volunteer](http://AustralianUnions.org.au/volunteer)

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LIVING STANDARDS



# THE CHINA FREE TRADE DEAL WILL SHUT OUT LOCALS FROM JOBS



**Tony Abbott  
has signed a  
deal which lets  
companies fly  
in their own  
workers.**

Australia can't afford this. Unemployment is too high, especially for young people. His secret trade deal with China will tip us over the edge.

**The facts everyone needs to know  
about the China FTA... Turn Over ➔**

# THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT.

1

An employer can take on a worker from China without having to advertise the job locally first.

2

A Chinese company investing 15% in a project worth at least \$150 million can bring in lower-skilled overseas workers, with lower-level language skills and lower wages than allowed under the standard visa program.

3

Overseas tradies (electricians, carpenters, joiners etc) will not have to meet Australian qualifications.

4

In many cases, tariffs on products that protect Australian jobs will be abolished immediately, but Chinese tariffs will remain for many years.

5

This trade deal has no commitments to respect workers' rights. China is one of the ten worst places to be a worker according to the international trade union movement.

6

Many Chinese companies are unfairly subsidised by their government, are not bound by environmental protection laws, and ignore workers' rights.

7

More unfair imports under this deal will cost an estimated 158,000 jobs.

8

Half of Australian businesses say the deal will hurt them. Only 11% say it will help.

9

Chinese companies could sue Australian governments that pass laws which might affect their profits. This could make it almost impossible to reverse the privatisation of public services.

10

Any commitments in this FTA will most likely be repeated in upcoming deals with the US and India.

11

China and the Abbott Government, together with big business, negotiated this agreement in secret.

**SAY NO  
TO EXPLOITATION!  
SAY YES  
TO LOCAL JOBS!**

**UNITE & FIGHT BACK**

**TELL ABBOTT WHAT YOU  
THINK ABOUT THE CHINA FTA**

Australian **Unions**  
Join. For a better life.

**BUILD A BETTER  
FUTURE**

FIGHT FOR OUR  
LIVING STANDARDS

Phone Tony Abbott on his direct line: **02)6277 7700**

Leave comments on his Facebook page: **facebook.com/TonyAbbottMP**