

WMWA Member News July 2016

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## WMWA MEMBER NEWS – JULY 2016

### STAND UP - SPEAK OUT - BACK UP – COME BACK HOME

Friend,

Last month's tragedy at Paraburdoo has been deeply felt by all Rio workers, especially so for those at Paraburdoo. All members extend their sincere condolences to Lee's family. This tragic loss of life is a somber reminder of the significant risks mining workers and their families face every day.

When you are at work please take the time to think of your safety, your family and friends before you start any job.

The Department of Mines and Petroleum (DMP) and the WA coroner are conducting investigations into Lee's death. These investigations will take some time to complete.

Since the incident the Union has had a number of detailed discussions with DMP and Rio management about the incident and our members safety concerns. We have formally raised members ongoing safety concerns with DMP and the mining industry advisory committee through [correspondence](#).

Over the past few months the WMWA has been highlighting the increasing number of safety concerns with management and members.

We have been encouraging union members to take the lead on safety in their workplace. In the current environment it is vital that members ***Stand up, Speak Up and Back up your workmates about safety concerns at work.***

If you have unresolved safety concerns or do not feel comfortable raising your concerns with management you can speak to your health and safety rep or Union

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Your safety is in your hands - workers in the mining can raise serious safety concerns anonymously by contacting the department of mines and petroleum on **(08) 9358 8010** or by emailing them [north.inspectorate@dmp.wa.gov.au](mailto:north.inspectorate@dmp.wa.gov.au)

Safety is and always will be Union business. The Union offers practical advice and onsite support to safety reps and members who have safety concerns.

## Camera Surveillance of Rio sites

Recently workers at Western Turner came to the Union with concerns that CCTV cameras had been installed at part of the site without their knowledge.

It was only when supervisors made comments about watching people and the new cameras ability to “zoom right in” that those workers became aware they were being watched.

This was a concern on many levels not least privacy, anyone who has worked in a remote area of a mine site knows that toilet facilities are few and far between.

After Union Organisers raised concerns with management about the cameras and lack of signage a banner was put out to staff informing them of the cameras location.

## WMWA Member Wins Settlement

Recently long term WMWA member and family man was able to walk away with fair compensation for his dismissal from Rio.

Although the process was at times difficult and drawn out Ryan kept his resolve and with assistance from the Unions legal team was able to get a result he deserved after a decade of service to the company.

*The member said “If I didn’t have the Union there to back me up at times I probably would have just walked away from it to be honest, to have someone there to give you advice and support makes all the difference. Whilst it wasn’t a good experience I’m happy with the outcome and thankful for what the Union did for me.”*

The Unions legal team is committed to ensuring members receive a fair deal.

## Workplace rights training - Monday 18 July in Perth

Due to member demand the WMWA will be conducting a half-day training sessions for members in Perth on Monday 18 July in the afternoon. The session will cover

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The session will take around 4 hours and provide you practical information to help you make your workplace fairer and safer. If you wish to attend please email Andrew - [andrew.smith@wmwa.org.au](mailto:andrew.smith@wmwa.org.au)

## WANT MORE INFO ABOUT THESE STORIES OR THE UNION?

### CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WMWA ORGANISER

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