

## **JUNE NEWS UPDATE**

### **WMWA LEADERSHIP GROUP PILBARA VISIT**

In late May the National and State leadership groups of the Unions making up the WMWA (AWU & CFMEU M&E) visited the Pilbara. Well-attended meetings were held in both Tom Price and Paraburdoo.

Members had a chance to ask questions and chat with the leadership group who reconfirmed their commitment to the WMWA.

If any members who were unable to attend these meetings would like to learn more, please get in touch with your Organiser.

### **BROCKMAN 4 BREAK TIMES**

If you are working a shift of 12 hours or more, breaks are essential to managing fatigue. Last year a WMWA member at Brockman 4 reported that workers were having breaks cut.

The union was able to step in, and now workers are receiving their full 60-minute break.

Unfortunately there was no avenue to pursue the matter as an underpayment.

Rio Tinto declined the WMWA Member suggestion that the company should calculate a dollar amount for time overworked at Brockman 4 (for the past 6 years) and donate the equivalent to the Flying Doctor Service.

Nevertheless, this is a great win for WMWA members.

### **REDUNDANT WHILST ON LEAVE**

A member has asked that we share his story, about getting made redundant by Rio while he was taking leave.

A WMWA was overseas on leave when he heard from friends that Rio was making his team redundant, because they wanted to contract out work.

The member contacted HR for confirmation and was told he was being made redundant, and he could not come back on site to collect his tools and trad certificates.

He was assured that his effects would be sent to him, but he didn't receive them for an entire month. This meant that the member couldn't start working and earning money.

Unfortunately, a legal defence against incompetence was not an option. WMWA did represent the issues to management.



Eventually the member received all his tools and needed certificates, but not without loss of income and reputation.

**MEMBERS ARE THE UNION!**

A Union is only as strong as its members and engaged, active members make for a strong Union! Questions, comments and feedback are always welcome.

Due to the vast distances between sites in the Pilbara it is through our members we learn of issues and leads to recruit new members.

Organisers are always happy to have a chat, so pick up the phone and give us a call, the information you have could make a big difference!

