



# Transport Workers' Union

## National Office

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**Tony Sheldon** National Secretary

Friday, 17 January 2014

Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: [eec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

Government's approach to re establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission

The Transport Workers' Union of Australia is writing to the Committee to support the Australian Council of Trade Unions' submission to the Senate inquiry regarding establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission. Along with affiliated unions we strongly oppose the *Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Bill 2013*.

Workers in the building and construction industry should be subject to the same industrial laws as all other workers. This is consistent with the fundamental principle of equality of all persons before the law. Subjecting any group of workers or industry to punitive laws is unnecessary and discriminatory.

Despite the intimidating powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) under the Howard government it failed to uncover any major illegalities existed. But instead the Coalition government wants to waste further taxpayer monies on an ABCC mark II.

This proposed move is on top of the Government's "review" of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal. This "review" shows contempt for families of the 330 people killed in truck-related crashes in the last year and a casual disregard for drivers pressured by clients to speed or carry overweight loads.

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NSW State Secretary  
Wayne Forno

Vic/Tas State Secretary  
Wayne Mader

Qld State Secretary  
Peter Biagini

WA State Secretary  
Rick Burton

SA/NT State Secretary  
Ray Wyatt

Just as the ABCC is an attack on construction workers the “review” of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal is an attack on transport workers.

We are pleased to support the ACTU submission to this inquiry and would be pleased to respond to any questions arising out of the submission at any future hearings to this inquiry. Please direct any correspondence to Polo Guilbert-Wright at the address above or via email to: [polo.guilbert-wright@twu.com.au](mailto:polo.guilbert-wright@twu.com.au).

Yours sincerely,

Tony Sheldon  
National Secretary