

To the Senate Committee,

Thanks for taking the time to read my senate submission. My name is Darren Mitchell, I'm married I have 2 children and I live in Lake Macquarie and I have worked in the steel manufacturing and train manufacturing industries for over 30 years.

I want to voice my concerns about the way Australia is heading in regards to manufacturing, be it the automotive, ships/submarines, steel and freight/passenger rolling stock industries. We were once a proud nation who were leaders in these fields and sourcing from overseas countries was only done as a last resort, but now when any large project comes along the first thought by the government and businesses is which other country can we get to do this for us on the cheap. **Yes it's very sad isn't it?**

The steel and train manufacturing have been good to me, providing me and my family with a means to a decent living standard, but for some reason these industries are diminishing and I believe it's because of the state and federal governments policies and their disdain for the tax paying people who voted them in and people they are supposed to represent. **Yes it's very sad isn't it?**

I work at Downer Rail and have been part of the build team for the Millennium train project and recently the Waratah train project. Both of these required skilled people, some already had these skills and some learnt these skills over the term of the contract, and now we no longer build new trains anymore all of these skilled people have had to go elsewhere. I keep in touch with a lot of these guys and they are struggling to find employment in the fields where their skills are, half of them haven't been able to keep a fulltime job and only pick up a few weeks work at a time. **Yes it's very sad isn't it?**

With the Intercity train fleet due for replacement I understand that there are 3 companies in the running to win this contract with Downer being one of them and the bid that they put forward contained no local content because that was what our state government of NSW wanted. **Yes it's very sad isn't it?**

The Victorian government has done the right thing for the people of their state by having a 50% minimum local content on all of their rolling stock projects with the more local content the more likely the bidding companies are to win this work. Well done to the Victorians.

With this lack of work and future job prospects it will create many bad influences, like more families reliant on welfare, more youth coming out of school who will most likely be reliant on welfare as there are not many apprenticeships available, more people with social problems like depression which could possibly lead to suicide as they see no future for themselves. **Yes it's very sad isn't it?**

Why should our taxes go to overseas countries and their people? If all of the future projects in the industries I mentioned before were built in Australia by Australians with Australian tax payers money imagine the flow on effects this would have to this once great nation. More employment means more tax dollars going back into our communities for hospitals, schools, sporting clubs and charities and less people on welfare. **Yes that's good isn't it?**

What I would like to see is a commitment from our leaders to have all future projects considering there is so much work in required in the next 20 years especially in the passenger train and freight industries kept in our country.

Let's show some national pride like the good old days. Design, build and maintain our trains, freight, ships and submarines on our shores and make us a proud nation once again.

Regards

Darren Mitchell AMWU Delegate

