

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Shaun Goss ,a 52 year old electrician living in Lake Macquarie N.S.W who works in the rail industry .I am very concerned for the future of the rail manufacturing industry in N.S.W,given the current State Governments approach to procurement of rolling stock ,be it passenger trains or trams.The Hunter Valley is facing a jobs crisis the likes of which has not been seen for decades.The two big players in Newcastle Downer and U.G.L currently employ around 200 between them,5 years ago this would have been more like 1000.With the loss of Forgas shipbuilding and the uncertainty facing the coal industry the Hunter is suffering.Unemployment around 7% and youth unemployment approaching 22%.Jobs create and make communities and the loss of them also destroys them .Last year the Victorian Government made a decision to purchase new rolling stock with a minimum 50% + local content ,with a 10 year build plan .A great result for rail workers and their families .The N.S.W government is spending 3.9 billion on intercity trains 100%built overseas .This will destroy rail manufacturing in N.S.W .Like the shipbuilding industry the rail industry has peaks and troughs a ,continuous build programs along with a national approach to standardization would fix this making our players competitive ,keeping people employed ,training up our next generation of workers .Given the national push to free trade agreements our rail manufacturing capabilities are fading. The rail industry needs guarantees and policies that help it and help our economy grow .The impending loss of our car manufacturing industry is going to hit this country like the great depression .Rail transport is vital to our nation's future and there are many projects that need to be filled over the coming decades ,trains like ships are expensive and they don't last forever .I have seen the quality of some imported rolling stock and let's say you get what you pay for .I am an A.M.W.U delegate representing my colleagues throughout the country ,I believe it would be helpful if a delegation could meet with senators to discuss these matters and deliver a national approach to a very important issue affecting many Australians their families ,communities and our economy .looking forward to your reply

Regards

Shaun Goss A.M.W.U delegate