



Owner Drivers Australia

If You're Talking to the Driver, You're Talking to the Owner

office@ownerdrivers.com.au

ABN: 54 403 453 626

Federal Government breaks core election promise in political deal with Transport Workers Union

Monday 8th May 2006

Last week, the Federal Government [announced](#) that owner-drivers in New South Wales and Victoria would be excluded from the promised Independent Contractors Act.

The day after the government announcement, the Transport Workers Union called off its truck blockade of Canberra, planned for Sunday 7th May.

The government has caved in to the TWU's noisy, political campaigning and sold out owner-drivers to the clutches of the union movement.

The Federal Government's [election policy](#) promised that independent contractors would be protected from industrial relations laws that forced us to be employees and which consequently denied us the right to be our own business.

- The NSW Industrial Relations Act (Chap 6) declares that every owner-driver is an employee and subject to a NSW award. This gives the TWU legal power to control our businesses—even when we don't want this and when we refuse to belong to the TWU. This effectively stops us being our own business.
- The Victorian Owner Drivers Act has the power to create awards for owner-drivers.

We don't want the NSW and Victorian arrangements. The Government promised that we would be protected from laws like these which destroy our small business rights. It has broken one of its most important election promises.

The Government has done a political deal with the Transport Workers Union. Will it now do the same to owner-drivers in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the ACT?

The Government announcement also declared that an inquiry into owner-drivers would be conducted in 2007. But this inquiry will proceed with an Independent Contractors Act already pushing us into the bad business laws that operate in NSW and Victoria. This means the inquiry is a sham before it starts. We reckon the inquiry will recommend that NSW and Victorian-style laws which destroy small business should be applied to owner-drivers nationally.

ALL owner-drivers in Australia have been sold out.

Spokesperson: Michael Kelson

Media contact: Don D'Cruz 0408 549 387