



• A DIVISION OF HUNTER TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES PTY LTD
ABN 88 000 245 527

19th JULY , 2006

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SECRETARY
SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS
AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
PO BOX 6100
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA A.C.T 2600
AUSTRALIA



Dear Secretary,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the 200 sub-contract courier drivers that perform contracts of carriage for Hunter Transport Industries , who are amazed and extremely disappointed at the exclusion of New South Wales and Victorian owner drivers from the Independent Contractors Bill.

The contractors in general support the reforms however they can not understand why the Government has moved away from its 2004 election promise and has excluded Owner drivers from the bill. No exclusions were mentioned in the election promise and the contractors believe the Government should stand by that promise and not exclude any group of independent contractors from the benefits of the IC Bill . It is their belief that Clause 7 (2) should be deleted.

An Independent contractor is just that, an independent contractor , its not an industry that makes an independent contractor its about the rights of an independent contractor who, should not be hit by industrial relations laws and other employment type restrictions , no group should be excluded from the benefits of the IC Bill.

The Government has introduced Work Choices for employees, the Independent Contractors Bill for contractors and yet owner drivers are now in limbo -This makes no sense at all It is irrelevant which industry an independent contractor works in-They all need to be covered.

Any exclusion from the benefits of the IC Bill is very dangerous and sets a precedent that any industry then becomes potentially a target for exclusion. The IC Bill needs to apply to those who are truly independent and that must include owner drivers.

We call on this Senate Committee to reject the exclusion and let us all have ONE independent contractors bill for ALL independent contractors.

We are all concerned at the level of consultation the Government has initiated with our industry and call on the Senate Committee to hold further discussions before the Bill is placed before the Senate , we do not need another inquiry , we have already had an inquiry into this Bill and there were NO exclusions mentioned.

It is unthinkable that the Government has given all working Australians choice if they are employees , independent contractors are also given a choice , yet owner drivers have been left to the mercy of the current State Government and the TWU.

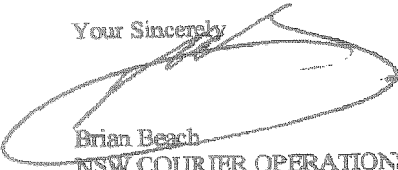
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I sometimes wonder that this Government has no idea what the costs are to be an owner driver they have to battle for every cent they earn and the way fuel is increasing daily they need all the help they can be given and not keep blowing up bridges along the way just to halt their progress , you , the Government have a duty to keep this industry alive and keep the well being of all owner drivers and their families safe and sound it is your duty of care.

There are 4,000 Courier owner drivers in NEW SOUTH WALES that all work under extreme pressure and uncertainty day in and day out not knowing where the next dollar will come from and having to jump obstacles that Government want to throw in their path. I think it is time that this Government holds true to their promises and does the right thing

The Government is there to work for the people please let these people work and have some certainty for their future

Your Sincerely



Brian Beach
NSW COURIER OPERATIONS MANAGER
CLC COURIERS
A DIVISION O HUNTER TRANSPORT INDUSTRIES