

Resolutions on Industrial Disputes

ACTU CONGRESS 2003

GEELONG WOOL COMBING

Congress condemns the actions of Geelong Wool Combing in locking out 93 employees for 111 days.

These TCFUA members are hard working employees who have done nothing more than resist their employer's determination to significantly reduce their pay and conditions and to casualise permanent jobs.

This company's actions expose the true agenda of Tony Abbott and the Federal Government who, both in their strategic encouragement and legislation, embolden employers to pursue repressive, harsh tactics designed to undermine the fundamental capacity of unions to organise and support their members.

Congress congratulates the TCFUA members and their families for their strength and resolve in the face of extreme hardship and intimidation.

Congress acknowledges the significance of this dispute and resolves to support the GWC workers and their families through:

- fund raising and financial assistance; and
- mobilising affiliates' membership in the event of any company attempt to replace the current workforce.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION REGARDING QANTAS

Congress condemns Qantas for its provocative action in trying to replace permanent Qantas jobs with casual labour hire employment.

Congress stands ready and united to support airline unions and their members in this vital dispute and will not allow another Reith-style waterfront dispute to occur.

FAIR PLAY FOR WESTFIELD CLEANERS ACROSS THE GLOBE

Congress calls on Mr Frank Lowy and his Westfield global shopping centre empire to deliver a Fair Play policy based on ILO principles for the

thousands of low-wage immigrant workers who sweat and toil cleaning the more than 120 Westfield centres he owns around the globe.

Congress supports the internationally co-ordinated campaign by cleaning unions in Australia and the USA - the LHMU and the SEIU - to deliver a global Fair Play agreement which will:

- ensure that cleaning contractors hostile to their workers' union rights, and their demands for collective agreements, are barred from tendering for working on Westfield contracts;
- deliver job security to the cleaning workforce by ensuring that workers can keep their jobs and maintain their entitlements at contract change;
- ensure that no contractor pays their workforce below Award rates or forces them onto individual employment agreements and that contractors comply with all relevant legislation;
- address workload issues, production rates and OHS issues; and
- create a process for regular and direct consultation between the relevant unions and local and regional Westfield management.