

CFMEU

WORKPLACE BRIEFING

ISSUE 06

THE CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

IS

BAD FOR WORKERS

It's a secret deal... made to benefit big business

The Abbott Government claims that the China Free Trade Agreement will help Australian businesses, including manufacturers, gain better access to China's economy, increase export opportunities, and open up new markets.

The truth is very different.

- The Free Trade Agreement has been negotiated in SECRET
- The Australian public has NOT seen the Agreement
- We only know what the government is telling us
- The government has REFUSED to release the full details of the Agreement.

However, what we do know is enough to make us gravely concerned about what the

agreement will mean for CFMEU members and everyday working Australians.

What should worry us about the China Free Trade Agreement:

IT'S BAD FOR WORKERS

Did you know that?

- For all projects over \$150m a Chinese company will be able to bring in an entire Chinese workforce, with not a single job reserved for local workers?
- Big business won't even have to go through the current process of proving that they have advertised jobs in Australia and been unable to find suitable workers?
- The deal means that there are no restrictions on how many workers are bought in to Australia, or for how long.
- Tony Abbot is abandoning Australian workers.

We need a Federal government that is prepared to stand up for local jobs, not sell us out.

BAD FOR MANUFACTURING

- Research tells us that as many as 158,000 manufacturing jobs could be lost.
- This deal will allow cheaper products to flow into Australia from China – devastating the timber and paper industries, to name just a couple.
- Even Australian businesses think the agreement will be bad for them. An AiG survey showed that, whilst only 11% of businesses expect to benefit from the Agreement, almost 50% expect to be hurt.

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Our jobs. Our kids. Our future.

THE CHINA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT – ANOTHER ABBOTT SELL-OUT



CHINESE COMPANIES CAN SUE GOVERNMENTS IF AUSTRALIAN LAWS HURT THEIR BUSINESS

Did you know that?

➤ The Agreement will also allow Chinese companies to sue any government in Australia that passes a regulation which impacts on their investment.

As an example, if the CFMEU found that an imported Chinese product contained asbestos, and the Union campaigned to have a regulator ban that product, the Chinese company could sue our government, because it negatively affected their investment.

THE AGREEMENT IS DISASTROUS FOR CFMEU MEMBERS

The government continues to talk about this Agreement creating opportunities, but it cannot guarantee or quantify these opportunities – they are just more empty promises.

CFMEU members know that the price to be paid for this Agreement will be jobs – as Australian workers won't be employed on job sites, because cheaper labour has already been brought in, and manufacturing workers will lose their jobs, as cheap imported products send Australian companies out of business.

Visit the campaign website ourjobs.org.au

JOIN THE CFMEU

cfmeu.net.au/your-union/join-the-cfmeu

Or call the union on Free call 1800 060 556*

* Free call from landlines and some mobile plans. Check with your provider.

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