



THE CHINA FREE TRADE DEAL WILL SHUT OUT LOCALS FROM JOBS

Conversation notes for campaigners

What the Coalition's free trade agreement with China is really about

Unemployment is up and youth unemployment is at 13.4% but the Federal Government wants to let:

- Employers take on a worker from China without having to advertise the job locally first.
- Chinese companies bring in an entire workforce from overseas to work on projects worth over \$150 million with lower skills, lower level English and lower wages than is allowed under the current visa program. Not only that, but they want to allow the likes of Gina Rinehart to partner with Chinese companies and also have the right to bring in an overseas workforce.
- Australian Services Union (ASU) members, for example in local government, energy and water, be subjected to the possibility that they will be replaced by an overseas workforce in major projects worth over \$150million, such as regional road construction and maintenance, building electricity substations, and water infrastructure construction.
- Overseas tradies, including electricians and mechanics, no longer need to meet Australian qualifications and standards.
- An estimated 158,000 Australian workers could lose their jobs. This could rise if the Federal Government concludes similar deals with India and the US.
- Outrageously, our Federal Government wants to give Chinese companies the ability to sue the Australian Government if they introduce laws that might impact upon their profits. This could lead to no minimum staffing ratios, privatisation and no minimum qualification standards. This could impact upon every workplace from childcare to construction.

The Questions (for meetings & 1:1 conversations)

1. What do you think will happen to wages and conditions if the Federal Government gets away with this deal?
2. Why would the Government want to give jobs to overseas nationals ahead of Australians when unemployment is so high in Australia?

3. What would it be like to be an overseas national working at the mercy of this deal?
4. Who wins in this deal?
5. How long do you think it will take for the likes of Rinehart to exploit overseas workers and get rid of Australian workers?
6. What message does it send to the rest of the world that our Federal Government prefers to undercut wages, turn a blind eye to exploitation and rob over 158,000 Australians of a job?
7. What does this say about where the Liberal-National Coalition's priorities lie?
8. How many people do you know who are currently unemployed and looking for an opportunity right now?

Action/Solution

Imagine being part of a campaign where the Government had to back down and put our future first. We know that before this secret deal is adopted the majority of MPs and Senators need to vote for it. We did it before with Medicare and we can do it again by being active in the Build a Better Future campaign.

We can decide to do something about this or let the Coalition Government get away with putting local jobs last. In order to win you can:

1. **Email** your local MP and let them know your concerns: australianunions.org.au/china_fta
2. **Sign up** to the Build a Better Future campaign: australianunions.org.au/volunteer
3. **Let your neighbour, your workmates and your family know** what the deal with China is all about.
4. **Attend a local rally** to stop the China FTA
For more details about the events visit: australianunions.org.au



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FIGHT FOR OUR LIVING STANDARDS

