



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**Notice of Motion**

23 February 2017

**INTERCITY TRAIN FLEET CONTRACT**

**Ms SONIA HORNER ( Wallsend ) ( 13:02 ):** The decision to award the contract for new rolling stock to a South Korean manufacturing concern has sent shockwaves through the Wallsend community and the Hunter. I thank the member for Drummoyne for speaking about the attributes of the carriages. My colleagues will agree that EDI and UGL could have built all of those trains with all of those attributes, including cup holders. I am sure we could have built cup holders in Australia. The Government has taken away Australian jobs. It is a betrayal. The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union secretary, Tim Ayres, stated:

This is money that should have been invested in Australian workers and Australian communities, instead we are deliberately sending manufacturing jobs offshore.

The unemployment rate in Newcastle and Lake Macquarie is over 6 per cent, well above the 5.7 per cent average. The employment situation for young people in Wallsend is even worse. The Hunter has the worst youth unemployment in the State. There are no skilled jobs in the manufacturing sector. In the past that was a ticket to a secure life. At least it was when I grew up in West Wallsend, but not now. It was not flashy or luxurious but it was enough to raise a family. Now the local manufacturing industry has evaporated and the jobs gone to South Korea. AMWU organiser Corey Wright said:

There have been rolling stock job losses in the Hunter Valley and they are criminal.

Further:

This contract alone would have sustained 800 jobs in the Hunter.

**Ms Kate Washington:** How many families could that feed?

**Ms SONIA HORNER:** That is 800 jobs that would have fed families.

**Mr Nick Lalich:** How many jobs is that?

**Ms SONIA HORNERY:** That is 800 jobs. The Government's failed Smart and Skilled policy caused a lack of skilled workers. The TAFE cuts, increases in fees, the proliferation of dodgy private providers and the downturn in manufacturing will mean trouble for the local economy in the Hunter. Instead of investing in the workers of tomorrow by generating apprenticeships for young people, \$2.3 billion is being spent overseas. The member for Cabramatta will want to hear that again: the Government is going to spend \$2.3 billion overseas to benefit the South Korean economy.

Mr Wright said, "It is a massive missed opportunity for this State, for the State Government and a shame for the people of Wallsend." According to AMWU figures 1,200 local jobs would have been generated in the Hunter by requiring local content through a tender process. Not all of those jobs would have been in Wallsend, but they would have been in the Hunter. The employment may have been in the electorate of Newcastle at the UGL site in Broadmeadow or in my electorate with EDI. This is not occurring. Tim Ayres said, "It defies economic sense to wilfully send these jobs overseas." Every Labor member agrees. This Government has committed to slugging Wallsend with hit after hit. It tried to close the greyhound track and to wreck the local economy, and has removed police stations. I agree with the member for Newcastle, we need to keep local jobs in Wallsend and the Hunter.