



**Media Release / 8 July 2009**

## **Townsville community angry at Wallace's rail sell-off plans**

More than 100 workers and supporters vented their anger today during a noisy protest outside the local office of rail privatisation supporter and Member for Thuringowa, Craig Wallace.

Rail, Tram and Bus Union State President Bruce Mackie said Mr Wallace's support for the sell-off of public assets by the Labor Government was a betrayal of regional industry and workers in his electorate.

The delegation invited Mr Wallace to speak but his office said he was "on electorate duties".

The RTBU has joined with other unions to fight against the Queensland government's sell-off of rail, ports, roads and forestry assets.

A community forum is also planned tomorrow in Cairns.

"This fire sale of public assets is short-sighted and puts big business before the people of regional Queensland," Mr Mackie said today.

"More than 10,000 rail jobs are at risk throughout Queensland. Privatised rail is a basket case in other Australian states, and Mr Wallace needs to know that rail workers aren't going to let Queensland assets get sold down the river by any political party.

"Politicians need to listen to the concerns of their constituents and reverse the decision to sell off our public assets.

"Comment was made at today's meeting that Mr Wallace's electorate office sign looked a little faded from the sun – and he can be guaranteed to get a lot more heat from the Townsville community if he maintains support for this sell-off," Mr Mackie said.

A series of regional forums are being held to highlight the risks of privatisation to regional and rural communities.

**For further information or interviews,  
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