



**Media Release / 1 July 2009**

## **Rail workers to voice sell-off concerns in Mackay rally**

Concerned Mackay workers and supporters will rally tomorrow to highlight concerns at the State Government sell-off of railways, ports, roads and forests

Rail, Tram and Bus Union Branch Organiser Craig Allen said local Member for Mackay Tim 'Must Sell' Mulherin can expect to come under fire at the 2pm rally in Old Town Park, Sydney Street.

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

"Mr Mulherin – the Minister for Rural and Regional Queensland - has been very quiet on the issue of privatisation and he needs to state his position to workers and their families who are facing threats to their job security and regional economies," Mr Allen said.

"Workers and local businesses are already copping a pounding – the fuel subsidy has gone, there's a 20 per cent increase in vehicle rego and a 15 per cent jump in electricity expenses.

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

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

Concerned workers in the Bowen Basin yesterday rallied against the privatisation plans. Well-supported meetings were held in Blackwater, Coppabella and Moranbah.

Mr Allen said workers and residents in the railway town of Bluff, near Blackwater, were particularly worried about their futures in a privatised rail network.

"This government says they are getting 'on with the job' but the only 'job' they are doing is a job on working families," Mr Allen said.

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

**For further information or interviews,  
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