



**Media Release / 29 June 2009**

## **Community angry at 'Sell-off' Swarten's rail plans**

More than 500 workers and supporters vented their anger today during a protest outside the local office of rail privatisation supporter and Member for Rockhampton, Robert 'Sell-off' Swarten.

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

A 500-strong crowd, including regional councillors, rail workers and other community representatives, held signs slamming 'Sell-off' Swarten, Paul 'Hock It' Hoolihan and Tim 'Must Sell' Mulherin.

The delegation invited Mr Swarten to speak but his office said he was unavailable.

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 was also planned for 6pm tonight at the Frenchville Sports Club.

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

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

He said Member for Keppel Tim 'Must Sell' Mulherin and Member for Mackay Paul 'Hock It' Hoolihan can expect similar visits from community delegations in coming days.

"These members need to listen to the concerns of their constituents and reverse the decision to sell off our public assets," Mr Mackie said.

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

**For further information or interviews,  
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