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TWU WILL REVIEW COURT DECISION IN QANTAS CASE

The Transport Workers Union is reviewing the Federal Court's judgment in the Qantas matter.

TWU national secretary, Tony Sheldon said the judge found Qantas gave assurances that agreements on sites rates would be maintained and agreed to observe the ACTU protocol if outsourcing occurred.

"Although we are still working through the decision, this seems like a very hollow victory for Qantas, while the Fair Work Ombudsmen has been delivered a disastrous outcome. The FWO has been humiliated", Mr Sheldon said.

"Considering this prosecution was conducted under John Howard's WorkChoices, five out of six claims were thrown out.

"Qantas has spent anywhere up to \$5 million of shareholders money prosecuting this case, a case aimed entirely at silencing the workforce.

"And whatever money the TWU is ordered to pay, Alan Joyce should guarantee it goes into children's charities instead of executive bonuses. I think everyone can agree sick kids need the money much more than a Qantas executive.

"In April, (chief executive) Alan Joyce told a meeting of unions, including the TWU, that if they dropped all cases against Qantas on behalf of employees and outsourced labour, he would cease legal proceedings in the pursuit of damages.

"But the workforce of the entire Qantas group will not be held to ransom," Mr Sheldon said.

In a WorkChoice's inspired prosecution in Adelaide, the court found that *"the prospect that the work currently performed by TWU members in the belt room at the Adelaide ramp would be "outsourced to an external supplier which could result in job losses for TWU members working at the Adelaide Ramp, or significant Wage losses for TWU members working at the Adelaide Ramp or significant wage losses for TWU member working at the Adelaide Ramp who accepted work with an external provider as those members would no longer have their terms and conditions of employment determined by the TWU Agreement"*.

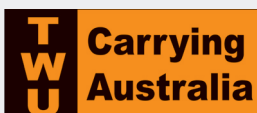
"This action was taken under the same threat of job losses, and real wage losses of between \$100 and \$200 a week," Mr Sheldon said.

"The action took place in a week where a man was killed in a brawl in Sydney Domestic Terminals, yet the employees are not allowed to raise safety concerns," Mr Sheldon said.

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