



# Driving a campaign

By Erika Seymour

STEVE Whittick, 68, of Blacktown, spent 40 years of his life driving trucks.

On Friday he was happy to see Holroyd City Mayor Greg Cummings pledge his support for a charter for safer driving.

A small party of former drivers and Transport Workers Union members gathered in Merrylands last week to discuss the need for change in the industry and launch the Charter for Safe Rates.

Cr Cummings said his area sports a large number of truck drivers as the Yennora Distribution Centre is one of the largest in

the southern hemisphere. "If truck drivers aren't pushed to make a quid they'll take a break," he said.

Mr Whittick said his two sons drove trucks and often spent hours waiting at distribution centres without pay.

Brian Thomas, 70, of Blacktown, who also drove for most of his working life, said the safety of the community and the livelihood of truckies was at stake.

"Conditions for drivers need to be improved because trucks can become lethal weapons," he said.



**Trucking on:** Former truckies Steve Whittick and Brian Thomas, with Transport Workers Union state secretary Wayne Fomo and Holroyd Council Mayor Greg Cummings, promoting safer trucking rules.

Picture: Gene Ramirez