



Truckies campaign for fair pay

THE Transport Workers Union is planning a national roadtrip to sell its campaign for change in the transport industry.

Last Friday, western Sydney truck drivers delivered a report on safety and pay in the industry to Lindsay Federal Labor MP David Bradbury at St Marys.

They want the report delivered to Canberra as part of the union's national campaign following a recent Safe Rates Summit in Sydney.

"I have been making representations directly to Julia Gillard on this issue for some time," Mr Bradbury said.

"It's an occupational health and safety issue not only for truck drivers but it also relates to public safety."

The union's assistant state secretary Bruce Penton said a large number of truck drivers and transport workers who live and work in western Sydney.

"The TWU has been working for some time with governments at all levels in order to ensure there is a federal determination with minimum rates of pay for truck drivers," he said.

"With 281 people killed in our industry each year, it is important

that drivers have full cost recovery, including waiting times and fuel costs, so they are not forced into doing one more load to make ends meet."

Springwood driver Peter Meehan has been a driver for more than 30 years and said that drivers needed be assured they'll be paid correctly.

"The rates need to be compatible with inflation," the 59-year-old said.

"You're a truck driver, not a brain surgeon, but you still need to pay the bills."

Mr Meehan, a contractor for Linfox, said drivers should be paid enough to cover their running costs.



At the report's handover are (from left) David Bradbury, contractor Peter Meehan and Bruce Penton (TWU assistant secretary).

Picture: DAVID MARSHALL -PP3