



Protesters present report

A ROLLING protest aimed at improving conditions for the state's truckies made a whistlestop visit in Griffith on Monday.

The convoy, organised by the Transport Workers Union (TWU) of NSW, presented a report on truck driver safety and rates of pay to local member and deputy leader of the NSW Nationals, Adrian Piccoli.

The report forms the backbone of a TWU campaign aimed at pressuring the Federal Government into adding a raft of new conditions into its new federal award for the industry, to be in place by 2010.

"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," TWU southern NSW secretary Klaus Pinkas said.

"With 281 people being killed in our industry each year, it is important that drivers have full

cost recovery, including pay for waiting times and fuel costs, so they are not forced into doing 'one more load' to make ends meet."

Mr Pinkas said many drivers were being forced to endure up to 30 hours unpaid waiting time per week, exacerbating an already chronic fatigue issue among drivers.

In coming weeks, the TWU will visit major regional and metropolitan areas to lobby politicians on the issue.

Murrumbidgee MP Adrian Piccoli said while the new award system was a federal issue, truck driver safety had an impact on all motorists.

"Griffith lives and dies by transport and while it's important that transport is efficient and cost-effective, it's also important that it's done in a safe manner," Mr Piccoli said.

"Every person benefits from safer road transport."



ON THE ROAD: Discussing the Transport Workers Union's campaign to improve conditions for local truck drivers are (from left) the TWU's Klaus Pinkas, campaign driver Frank Black and Murrumbidgee MP Adrian Piccoli.