

At this year's TWU National Council held in Brisbane, TWU members and elected officials set three main resolutions for our union's next big fights.

# 1

To continue building towards **our 2026 fight**—our biggest campaign ever as a union to set better standards across road transport and aviation.

# 2

To lobby for a **Safe and Secure Skies Commission** in aviation to ensure workers and the community are put first, and hold companies like Swissport accountable for dragging industry standards down.

# 3

Developing our **Future of Work Claim** and to ensure that **consultation with transport workers** is put front and centre on decisions related to AI, automation and transition to **net zero**.



[Click here to watch the media coverage of our 2026 fight](#)

In 2026, over 200 enterprise agreements covering hundreds and thousands of transport workers across road and aviation will expire together, **giving us huge power to lift standards across the industry**.

Congratulating all TWU members, TWU National Secretary Michael Kaine said – “TWU members have been working tirelessly over a decade to relentlessly align these agreements. They are ready to raise standards for all transport workers”

**WHAT IS THE 2026 FIGHT – OUR ROADS, OUR SKIES, OUR FUTURE?**

## NATIONAL COUNCIL ACTION at Brisbane Airport



TWU National Council marched at Brisbane International Airport to launch our claim on airports, airlines, regulators and the government to address the crisis in aviation.

Our claim calls on all aviation stakeholders to come together to ensure good and secure aviation jobs are restored in the industry. **What's clear is that aviation is in crisis.**



## WHAT IS NATIONAL COUNCIL?

Every year TWU members and elected TWU leadership – the union's peak decision making body – meet to review and set our plan of action to continue improving the lives of transport workers.

[Click here to watch the highlights of TWU members' fight over the last year.](#)



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## KEY STATS FROM TWU'S SURVEY OF OVER 2000 AVIATION WORKERS

**87%**

have been **rushed or pressured** to work unsafely

**92%**

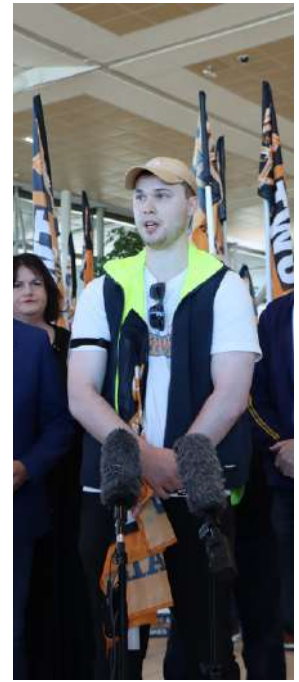
want to stay in aviation but

**48%**

have been **injured** at work

**75%**

say they **can't continue** under current pay and conditions



*Ryan Cresdee, a former Swissport worker addresses the media on Swissport's serious neglect of worker safety*

Our focus now turns to **Swissport** which is bringing the industry down with appalling safety and standards. This race to the bottom is driven by clients like Qantas through severe cost-cutting and outsourcing of workers.



## KEY STATS FROM TWU'S SURVEY OF AROUND 300 SWISSPORT WORKERS

**54%**

Say they've experienced **wage theft**

**67%**

Say they've **inadequate staff** members

**50%**

Say their **safety concerns** are not resolved

**73%**

Say they feel **pressured to work unsafely**

**Click here to watch the highlights of our [Swissport action](#)**



**Click here to watch the media coverage of our [Swissport action](#)**



TWU members are demanding Qantas funds decent standards at Swissport to stop dragging industry standards down.

With hundreds of new aviation members, TWU members are building power for our 2026 fight – **Our Roads, Our Skies, Our Future** – holding aviation clients to account for decent jobs.

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# NATIONAL COUNCIL 2025: MEMBER PANELS



*TWU delegates – Joey Mattar, Javad Khan, Marion Harris, Ian Cruise and Adam Guy*

## Aviation – Below the wing – Ground

### TWU ground delegates spoke about:

- The serious challenge of outsourcing to the lowest bidder in ground handling jobs.
- Union-won enterprise agreements that tackle outsourcing and improve their pay and conditions.
- Using wins with dnata, Menzies and Virgin to put pressure on companies like Swissport to stop the race to the bottom and build better standards for all ground workers



*TWU cabin crew delegates Ebanie Fletcher, Wade Ryan, Ian Duggan, and Rodney Arunda*

## Aviation – Above the Wing – Cabin crew

### TWU cabin crew delegates spoke about:

- The significant improvements Jetstar cabin crew have achieved under the Same Job, Same Pay (SJSP) laws.
- Long-term impacts of fragmentation within Qantas' cabin crew workforce and how members are now winning back rights through legislation like SJSP
- Tackling safety through WHS rights at Virgin Australia.



*TWU Road Delegates Glen Daniels, Rod Coleman, Judd Ward, Jen Brice, and Adam Bradbrook*

## Road Committees for 2026 Fight: Retails and Majors

### TWU Road Delegates discussed their strategies for the 2026 fight. They spoke about:

- Their key wins in Majors - improving EA conditions at StarTrack, securing Productivity Training at Linfox, and aligning FedEx EA to the 2026 fight.
- Targeting the biggest Retail yards first to build union density and structures.
- Mapping expiry dates across Retail targets to align bargaining and build coordinated power.
- Building member-led structures by winning stronger delegate rights.

## Some of our other member panels included:



**Winning reforms in the bus sector** and prioritising the safety of bus drivers across Australia.



**Protecting last-mile courier workers** through strong legislation at both the state and federal levels.



**Improving conditions for waste workers** and building pressure on waste companies through action.



**Building union power with pilots** and championing Pilot Safety Committees.



**Winning gig rights**, and building member-led union structures through digital organising.

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## TWU MEMBERS PREPARE 'FUTURE OF WORK CLAIM' - FOR DECENT TRANSPORT JOBS INTO THE FUTURE

TWU Assistant National Secretary **Emily McMillan** presented the Future of Work Claim and held discussions with Senator **Tony Sheldon** (and former TWU National Secretary) and **Paul Walsh**, CEO of Industry Skills Australia on:

- The urgent need of transport workers to be put first when it comes to changes in AI and automation.
- The importance of consultation with transport workers as the first step.

### Our international allies:

- Baker Khundaji, **ITF Global Youth Coordinator**, Frank Moreels, **Belgian Transport Association** and Matt Draper from **Unite** also spoke on the challenges and opportunities with AI and automation.

With these critical allies in Australia and around the globe –

### We have a plan to hold clients at the top of the supply chain accountable for funding:

- The transition to net zero,
- Up-skilling and training workers in new technologies.



*Emily McMillan, TWU National Assistant Secretary presenting the Future of Work Claim and holding discussion with CEO of Industry Skills Australia Paul Walsh and NSW Senator Tony Sheldon*



*Future of Work Panel with Baker Khundaji, ITF Global Youth Coordinator, Frank Moreels, Belgian Transport Association and Matt Draper from Unite*

## COMMITMENTS FROM THE RE-ELECTED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



**Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles** thanked transport workers for pushing for transport reform to make the industry safer, and congratulated Qantas workers on their huge win against Qantas' illegal outsourcing.



**Treasurer Jim Chalmers** committed to working towards an economy where workers can see real wage growth and decent jobs.

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Senators Tony Sheldon (NSW), Glenn Sterle (WA), Marielle Smith (SA), Anthony Chisholm (QLD) and Sam Rae MP (VIC) discussed their priorities as a newly formed government towards championing transport workers.



Representatives of The Australian Labor Party at TWU National Council 2025

## NATIONAL COUNCIL AWARD

Long-standing TWU delegates **Margaret Harvey** and **Ian Buckingham** were honoured with the TWU National Council Award for their unwavering commitment, unity, and dedication to improving the lives of transport workers, and their solidarity with the transport reform movement.



Ian Buckingham honoured with the National Council Award

Left to right: Josh Millroy (TWU QLD Director of Organising), Richard Olsen (NSW State Secretary), Ian Buckingham (TWU Delegate), Emily McMillan (TWU National Assistant Secretary) and Michael Kaine (TWU National Secretary)



Margaret Harvey honoured with the National Council Award

Left to right: Emily McMillan (TWU National Assistant Secretary), Richard Olsen (NSW State Secretary), Margaret Harvey (TWU Delegate), and Michael Kaine (TWU National Secretary)

## JOIN THE TWU TODAY

We need everyone in the union to lift standards in transport.

If you're not a member, [scan the QR code or click here to join now.](#)

f i t @TWUAUS



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