TWU Win: Fuel Costs to be Paid by Top of Supply Chain

After weeks of discussions, meetings, hearings and consulting, today marks a major win for road transport workers and one for the history books. After a massive push from the TWU, that included changing our country's laws, we now have a fast-tracked order from the Fair Work Commission, that will force wealthy clients to cover skyrocketing fuel costs.

A huge congrats to all TWU members for their hard work and contributions, and to the Australian Road Transport Industrial Organisation and the National Road Freighters Association, for their support in applying for this order.

How did we get here?

March 16 - Fair Work Commission conference

- We put in an urgent Fair Work Commission request, under the Transport Reform laws won by TWU Members, to set standards in the industry, to convene an industry conference, calling on clients to pay their fair share for rising fuel prices.

March 23 - Federal Government push

- We then called on the Federal Government to pass laws allowing quicker orders through the Fair Work Commission.
- With huge pressure from the TWU and other parts of the industry in a united push, the Federal Government quickly passed these changes.
- This included a delegation of TWU members to Canberra to tell their stories to politicians and explain why the changes were so urgent.

*ARTIO, NRFA, TWU delegates and National Secretary Michael Kaine with Workplace Relations Minister Amanda Rishworth

April 2 - Fast tracked application

- Soon after the laws were passed, we made an emergency application (with the ARTIO and NRFA) in the Fair Work Commission, to ensure fuel costs are paid for from the top of the supply chain.
- We also called on Workplace Relations Minister Amanda Rishworth to use the newly granted emergency powers, to fast-track the application.
- TWU then attended 5 days of hearings at the Fair Work Commission, where members and industry leaders made their case for why road transport workers urgently needed fuel relief

*TWU, ARTIO and NRFA arriving at Fair Work Commission for the initial hearing

April 20 - Order handed down by Fair Work Commission

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What does this order do?

In essence, this order will require clients of transport who sit at the top of supply chains to cover the cost of transporting goods around the country.

What clients need to do:

- Companies from retail, manufacturing and mining, will conduct fortnightly fuel reviews and pay enough for owner drivers and operators to cover surging prices.
- Funding will need to pass all the way down the supply chain, **the first time clients have been held to enforceable standards for the transport networks they use**
- Fuel payments will be pinned to prices as published by the Australian Institute of Petroleum, and **will stay in place until diesel prices drop below $2 per litre.**
- Companies that have already made fuel adjustments will be seen as complying with the order. Coles and Woolworths for instance, have already moved their fuel reviews to fortnightly and Uber has since implemented a 5c per kilometre surcharge which goes directly in the pockets of rideshare drivers.

This is the first ever Contract Chain Order made by the Fair Work Commission under laws passed by the Albanese government, allowing FWC to make legally binding orders covering the entire transport industry.

When will this take effect?

The order will come into effect today, April 21

Next steps

We know many are struggling in this crisis, with some still staring down massive fuel bills, but this order will go a long way to providing relief, and confidence that members will be able to cover costs in the near future.

We will continue to provide you with any updates or new developments, as they come.

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