



**Collieries'  
Staff and Officials  
Association**

# Staff at the Coalface

11 August 2015

**Workers sacked overnight by text on the Waterfront. Push to reduce workers rights.**

On the waterfront, workers sacked overnight, security guards blocking worksite entry... has the clock been wound back to the 1998 Patricks dispute?

No, its 2015 and **100 workers were sacked by email at midnight** last Thursday in a true sign of the disdain that Hutchison Ports shows to its workers.

**Today the Minerals Council representing Coal Mining Companies has called on the Government to abolish your safety net Award and replace it with (lessor) minimum standards, and at the same time reduce unions role in bargaining anything above the minimum.**

Is this fair?

Imagine if you received an email in the middle of the night like the waterfront workers did:

*"...your position will not be retained. There are no redeployment opportunities. The intended last day of your employment will be Friday 14 August 2015. I realise that this is a lot of information to*

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**Improving safety, salaries and work lives.**

Collieries Staff and Officials Association. Level 1, 491 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW 2000  
T (02) 9269 0688 • F (02) 9269 0611 • W [www.collieries.org.au](http://www.collieries.org.au) • E [infocsd@professionalsaustralia.org.au](mailto:infocsd@professionalsaustralia.org.au)



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*take in. Accordingly you are will (sic) not be required to attend work effective immediately. We will of course pay you your normal salary to your last date of employment."*

**There are guards on the gates and workers are not even allowed to clear their lockers.**

**This shouldn't become the standard of how workers are treated in Australia.**

### **What can I do to help?**

We've already seen some great examples of union solidarity, with members of the community and unions joining the sacked workers in a community assembly outside Hutchison Ports, 24 hours a day, every day since workers received the email.

Please email your message of support to the sacked workers to [infocsd@apesma.com.au](mailto:infocsd@apesma.com.au) and we will take it down and read it your on your behalf to the sacked workers. At times like this every bit of support counts.

If you happen to be in Sydney, **come any time to the corner of Sirius Rd and Foreshore Rd, Port Botany.** Together, just like 1998, **the union movement collectively will show them the power of a union and we will win.**

Together we can ensure all workers are treated with dignity and respect.

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