



Vote to Change the Rules

29 April 2019

Over the last few years mining Staff have seen their employers take advantage of weakened industrial laws to strip them of key working conditions without agreement or consultation. Member have constantly had to fight just to maintain their current entitlements despite having signed contracts.

Perhaps one of the most blatant examples of how the current laws are being abused by mining employers is at Yancoal Ashton and Austar in NSW. Claiming they wanted to “standardize” Staff and Deputy contracts, Yancoal set up shelf companies and moved all Staff and Deputies across to these “new employers”. Make no mistake, Staff and Deputies were doing the same work for the same company but were asked to sign new contracts cutting key conditions like redundancy and sick pay.

Under the current rules the Fair Work Commission was powerless to assist workers whose conditions were being cut. Under the current rules Yancoal could simply force Staff to accept the new contracts.

They were told to sign the new contract or get the sack. How can this be fair?

The Staff and your union collectively fought the cuts and ended up winning back a lot of the lost entitlements. To protect their conditions, they held protests outside the mine, shone a light on the bad behavior of the employer through the media and garnered community and political support.

We believe the Fair Work Commission should have the power to arbitrate when disputes like this arise.

This is what the Change the Rules campaign is about, and this is why your union has signed up to the campaign. The rules are broken and its time that politicians change the rules to protect hard working Australians. Unions across all industries have been lobbying politicians from all political parties to gain their support to change the rules if elected on May 18th. Three political parties have agreed to support the Change the Rules campaign. These are Labor, the Katter Party and the Greens.

What can I do to ensure we win fair work place laws?

- **Talk to your local candidates about what they will do to change the rules**
- **Vote for a candidate in your electorate that will support changing the rules**

Improving safety, salaries and work lives.