

# Media Alert

Friday 10 March, 2006

## **150 trucks to convoy over Sydney Harbour Bridge**

**GO SLOW.** That is what transport workers want to tell the public and the Howard Government on Sunday when a procession of more than 150 trucks will crawl across Sydney city.

The Howard Government is planning to introduce further industrial reforms. The proposed 'Independent Contractors Act' will result in an increase in already high driving hours for truck drivers, with a race to the bottom in a bid for trucking contracts.

NSW Secretary of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) Tony Sheldon said he would like to apologise for any delays the protest may cause the public on Sunday morning.

"However if Mr Howard's legislation is passed owner drivers (Independent Contractors) will lose their minimum rate and safety standards will be compromised," Mr Sheldon said.

"These IR changes will destroy the businesses, homes and families of owner drivers. Many drivers have mortgaged their homes to pay for their vehicles.

"This is a matter of public interest as we all share the roads and we all know the tragic consequences of being complacent about road safety.

"We do not want to see accidents happen. Drivers are tired of being pushed to dangerous limits to meet unrealistic timeframes by clients and employers.

"They will deliver their message directly to the Howard Government in their trucks this Sunday."

**Event: Transport Workers Union (TWU) - 'GO SLOW' convoy**

**Where: Under Anzac Bridge, James Craig Rd, Rozelle.**

**When: Sunday March 12, 2006 8.30 am for speakers and press conference with Tony Sheldon. Convoy to depart at 9 am.**

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Trucks will be available for media to travel in the convoy.