

Press Release

To: All Media Outlets
From: Simon Cocker
Date: 4 October 2007
Re: Is It Worth the Wait or
Another Workchoices Dud ?

Unions Tasmania Secretary, Simon Cocker said Workchoices Minister Joe Hockey is expected to release the long awaited report into the actions of United Petroleum in Tasmania tomorrow. His department has allowed United Petroleum to maintain the rort that the takeover of Mobil retail sites in Tasmania could be done under greenfields provisions of the Workchoices legislation. Mr. Hockey's department has allowed this rort to run for over a year without being able to say if it is legal or not. Nearly three weeks ago, on the one year anniversary of employees requesting the investigation, Mr Hockey said a report would be on his desk first thing on Monday morning (September 17th) but the workers are still waiting.

Mr. Cocker also said:

" Many workers had significant cuts in take home pay when Workchoices was used to abolish their overtime, penalty rates, public holidays, rest breaks and more under the greenfields fiction. They want to know if it was legal and it is outrageous they have had to wait 13 months for an answer."

"Tomorrows answer will tell us if the Workchoices legislation is deeply flawed and allows this rort or if workers are entitled to significant back pay."

"It is no wonder that employers are walking away from this harsh unfair and ridiculously complex legislation when it takes so long to provide a basic interpretation."

For further comment or query Simon Cocker on 0419 402377