

Ford plant closures Australia

Over 70 years ago, the Ford Motor Company commenced operations in Australia. Employing tens of thousands Australian workers, Ford was an important part of Australia's industrial landscape.

Ford was also home to tens of thousands of union members. Skilled workers and their families relied upon their jobs, and their communities around Geelong and Broadmeadows relied upon them. Prosperity in these communities depended on generations of workers who were prepared to work for Ford, and agitate and organise to improve their lives, those of their families and their communities.

Ford closed today. This closure arose from a number of factors, most importantly significant failure of successive Australian governments to support the vehicle industry because of their complete adoption of the neoliberal agenda. This was exemplified by former Treasurer Joe Hockey who, asked in parliament if he supported the vehicle industry, replied that his Government was not interested in supporting industries which didn't pay their way, ignoring the industries other than manufacturing which attract greater levels of Government support.

This shameful statement led directly to the final and total closure of the entire Australian vehicle manufacturing industry.

This Congress of IndustriALL Global Union expresses its solidarity with the Ford workers, their families and the communities. IndustriALL condemns the backward thinking of neoliberal governments everywhere, and calls upon the Turnbull Government to work with unions to reduce the dislocation and poverty which will lead from the closure of the vehicle industry.