

# Workers, organized labour and climate

Dr Liam Phelan NTEU Newcastle Branch Secretary and Climate Researcher

AT THIS SITE  
DURING THE NORTHERN COAL LOCKOUT  
MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 1929 — JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 1930,  
MINERS AND POLICE CLASHED  
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 1929,  
OVER THE USE OF NON-UNION  
(SCAB) LABOUR  
AT ROTHBURY COLLIERY.

ONE MINER—NORMAN BROWN—WAS KILLED  
AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MINERS AND POLICE  
WERE WOUNDED.

*THIS MONUMENT IS DEDICATED BY THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT MINERS WOMENS AUXILIARY  
TO HONOUR ALL OF THOSE WHO ENDURED THE LOCKOUT  
AND WHO WERE AT ROTHBURY  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 1929.*



# Climate Active

## CONFERENCE:



### **Keynote Speaker: TIM NOONAN**

Campaign and Communications Director at the  
International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

***Towards decent work in a sustainable,  
low-carbon world:  
The International Story***

*Organised by NTEU, NSW Teachers' Federation and LHMU*

Email [NTEU\\_Enviro@nsw.nteu.org.au](mailto:NTEU_Enviro@nsw.nteu.org.au)  
for travel arrangements and conference details

<http://climateactiveconference.wordpress.com/>

# 1. What you want done about the climate change issues of most concern to your sector...

- The coal (and the oil, and the gas) has to stay in the ground – what does a just transition look like?
- What leadership can universities provide? To our students, to our communities...
- How do we, as an institution, transition fairly to zero emissions teaching, research and learning?

## 2. Who you need to do it (policy / government / person)...

- Members, other staff and students – build on motivation and momentum while managing challenges for Union - *'We've tried flyers and posters and lectures and facts and statistics and people still aren't getting involved'*\* (quote from Workshop Session advertisement, *'Climate Active Conference'* in 2010 a joint NTEU/Teachers Fed/ LHMU Conference)
- Uni leadership
- Community influence on the uni leadership
- Government action and commitments

### 3. What your plans are to make this happen and what you need help with...

- **Campaign externally**, e.g. support the School Strike, and internally, e.g., to have UON declare a climate emergency, and help active members/staff with petitioning/ education resources/ remedies/ alternatives/ forums/ etc)
- **Campaign internally**, e.g. Look at uni's three \$ points: (i) procurement (e.g., electricity, fleet, etc); (ii) investments (UON has ~\$0.5b), and; (iii) research (and philanthropy) income sources (i.e. ban \$ from fossil fuel-intensive businesses, similar to the existing tobacco ban).
- **We could use help** in expressing community expectations about uni behaviour, i.e., calling on the uni have planned exit from research \$ from fossil fuel-intensive research partners and donors.