

## **‘Shoot the shit out of them, starve them out’: Leaked documents reveals beer giant’s shocking strategy to wage “war” on sacked workers**

Workers are shocked and appalled at newly revealed documents exposing Carlton and United Breweries’ secret plans to “shoot the shit out of them” and “starve” the workers into submission during a six month-long dispute centred at the Abbotsford brewery in Melbourne.

The explosive quotes come from Abbotsford Plant Manager Sebastian Siccita’s strategy notes kept following the sacking of the company’s entire maintenance workforce. The documents were tabled today at a Senate Inquiry into Corporate Avoidance of the Fair Work Act hearing, where the company was asked to account for its conduct during the six-month long dispute.

On a page titled “Win a War”, the author writes the company needs to

- **Shoot the shit out of them.**
- **Cut their supply lines and starve them out.**

Siccita was not expecting to be confronted over his leaked plans at today’s hearing. When grilled, he struggled to explain whether his plan reflected the company’s wider strategy in the dispute.

Electrical Trades Union Victorian Secretary Troy Gray said the secret documents reveal the depths large corporations were willing to go to punish loyal workers, cut wages and ratchet up already skyrocketing profits.

Quotes attributable to Electrical Trades Union Victorian Secretary Troy Gray:

“What we’re witnessing is the rise of extreme employers. We now have corporations prepared to do anything, go to any depth, to make this country theirs.”

“In thirty years I’ve never seen such a detailed, cruel battle plan from a manager so focused on cutting the wages of loyal, skilled workers who have given them decades of service and millions in profit.”

“What these secret documents reveal is what overly powerful corporations are prepared to do when they think no one’s watching – when the system encourages them to go after working people and there aren’t the rules to rein them in. This is a glimpse into what unions are defending workers from every day.”

“In 2017 a worker’s loyalty counts for nothing, and greed counts for everything. The laws need to change urgently to stop the slide into corporate domination of our society.”

“Every week another company gets the green light to push the nuclear button and tear up an enterprise agreement won by workers over years in good faith. Every other week another company locks out its workforce until they get handed the wage cuts they’re after.”

“These ‘Shoot and Starve’ tactics are allowed by our current laws. Clearly our laws are broken and they must be changed.”

“We will campaign every hour of every day of every year until our work laws are fixed and the corporate war they are waging on working people is brought to an abrupt end. They have gone too far.”

“Malcolm Turnbull will either act to prevent the rise of corporate power in Australia, or who will be replaced with someone who will.”

Quotes attributable Alan Dinon, retired electrical maintenance worker and worked at CUB Abbotsford Brewery for 40 years:

“Well now we know how far they were willing to go to beat us down. We could sense this from the picket line. They raged total war on us, but we had families, we had kids. Some of us had our whole lives ahead of us – and they were stealing that from us.”

“I worked there for 40 years. I gave my life to that company. It’s disgusting what they did to us. No other worker should have to go through it.”

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*The relevant organiser is available for media comment.*