

Work laws fight won't go away

ACTU secretary Greg Combet yesterday urged Illawarra union officials to fight the Howard Government's industrial relations changes all the way to next year's election.

Speaking at the South Coast Labour Council's annual conference in Wollongong, Mr Combet said the ACTU campaign would target Coalition-held seats, including those on the South Coast.

"We are focusing on marginal Coalition seats around the country but will be instructing union delegates to put pressure on all Liberal and National Party MPs," he said.

He was confident the WorkChoices legislation would remain in people's minds until polling day.

"Under the laws people are being treated unfairly in the workplace and there's a freeze on minimum wages, which impacts on a lot of people in this region," he said. "People aren't happy."

Mr Combet restated his belief that workplaces where most employees want a collective agreement should be required by law to negotiate one. "At the moment, bosses hold all the aces and we want to balance things out," he said. "The views of staff should be tested and if most of them want a collective agreement,



People won't forget: **ACTU secretary Greg Combet**, in Wollongong yesterday.

that's exactly what should happen." Mr Combet said where bosses and workers could not reach an understanding, the Industrial Relations Commission should act "as a circuit-breaker". The ACTU is organising a national day of action on November 30 to protest against the reforms.