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## **Unions renew campaign to beat industrial laws**

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THE **ACTU** will reactivate its successful campaign against the Howard Government's workplace laws, including new television advertisements and two days of protest rallies.

The commercials will start screening after the Commonwealth Games at the end of the month, when the workplace changes are due to become law.

Unions have scheduled protests in capital cities and regional centres in June and November, echoing the rallies held across the nation last year.

**ACTU** president **Sharan Burrow** said the new action would start ``in the next month or so".

``We're still putting the final touches on it," she said. ``We want to remind people these are major issues and people will stand to lose take-home pay, wages and conditions and rights you would associate with job security."

The Australian revealed last week that the NSW union movement was considering a \$25million offer from Macquarie Bank for a waterfront property to help bankroll its campaign against the workplace changes. However, Macquarie said yesterday it had pulled out of the bidding for the property, Currawong.

The **ACTU** said yesterday the new campaign would be financed through levies from the unions and donations from working people who have ``dug into their pockets".

``This goes way beyond politics, this is actually about the values that shape our society," Ms Burrow said. ``Should working people have rights, rights that stand the test of international law? Yes, they should. Do they in Australia? No, they don't. Will people's take-home pay and their family time be at risk? Yes, it will.

``People need to know they do have avenues where they can report employer attempts to tear up wages and conditions."

Victorian Trades Hall Council secretary Brian Boyd said union shop stewards

would meet in two weeks to start mobilising workers in preparation for the first nationwide stoppage in June. ``There's been a lot of hubris around John Howard celebrating 10 years in power," Mr Boyd said.

``But there are lot of workers who are still very angry about his workplace changes, and that will generate a big turn-up in June."

He said Victorian unions wanted to ``shut down Melbourne" for the protest on June 28. ``We're calling on every Victorian worker to join in," Mr Boyd said.

But Peter Hendy, chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the union campaign would be less effective, because the laws were about to be implemented.

``I think the extent to which a scare campaign can bite through the course of the year will dissipate because this is not the end of the union movement, it's not the end of civilised humanity in Australia, it's exactly the opposite," he said.

``It's actually good for the economy and it's actually going to help deliver a continuation in real wage growth and lower unemployment ... which is good for workers as well."

A spokesman for Workplace Relations Minister Kevin Andrews confirmed the workplace changes would be proclaimed into law by the end of the month. The spokesman said seminars would be held to explain the changes further.

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