

CFMEU

CONSTRUCTION

15 August 2024

Dear members,

I am writing to provide a further update on the discussions around the administration of the union.

Our primary responsibility is to you, the members; we need to ensure that any scheme of administration will enable the Union to continue bargaining, signing new EBAs, representing you in disputes and ensuring your safety at work. Up until this point in time, we have not supported an external administrator because we did not have certainty that the administrator was able to protect your rights and advance your wages.

We have continued discussions with the Fair Work Commission. The Union is attempting to negotiate with the FWC and across the political spectrum to minimise the impact on members of any future administration scheme.

It is essential that members maintain control of our Union; members must have an integral role under any scheme of administration. The Fair Work Commission has proposed a totally unworkable scheme, and requested the Union respond. In good faith, the Union has replied with a proposal that protects your interests. We will continue to work with the FWC and any other party to find a proposal where your working rights are at its centre.

Due to the process with the Fair Work Commission, the legislation before the Federal Parliament is as shameful as it is unnecessary. Whereas the Fair Work Commission has enabled the Union to engage in a court process, the proposed new laws put a torch to our right to procedural fairness and natural justice.

Organised crime is much bigger than any one organisation and the CFMEU has been attacked by criminals associated with the bosses and big business for years. Our people – like former ACT Branch Secretary Jason O'Mara – have had shots fired into their homes and been intimidated by standover men and strike-breakers sent by the bosses.

We work in a tough industry where we must contend with criminal conduct. But, unlike the rest of the industry, we have taken action to address it. The Government's proposed legislation fails to address the real issues of criminality and corruption that affect all of us in the industry; instead, these laws increase the danger faced by construction workers, leaving them exposed to the criminality and corruption that the Government says it wants to stamp out.

The real criminals are the bosses who kill workers through acts of negligence and cost cutting. Union sites are safe sites. Any reduction in union presence and coverage will leave more workers maimed and killed in what is already a dangerous industry. We will never lose sight of this: you have a right to come home safe to your family.

The CFMEU has been steadfastly focused on getting an outcome that is in the best interests of members, and we remain focused on this goal. We will continue to work with the Fair Work Commission to pursue a reasonable outcome.

A forced administration through Federal legislation, devoid of real consultation with construction workers and isolated from their elected representatives, does not achieve this outcome.

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All Australian workers have benefited from our Union's steadfast and resolute commitment to workers' safety, economic justice and job security.

We will continue to work for our members best interests and, as always, I will continue to keep you updated on developments as they happen.

In solidarity,



Zach Smith
National Secretary
CFMEU (Construction and General Division)

