

# CFMEU

CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY  
MARITIME MINING & ENERGY UNION

SEPTEMBER  
2023

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY CAIN

IF IT'S NOT SAFE –  
STOP THE JOB!



It has been a very busy month for the union but firstly and on behalf of the union, I would like to share our deepest of condolences to Victorian Branch Secretary, John Setka and his family on the passing of his much beloved father, Bob Setka. A man of great integrity and the sad loss of a true working-class hero.

The union would also like to offer its sincerest condolences to the families who have lost one of their own either at work or at home. Please remember to always keep safe on the job and if it's not safe, then pull up, say something, and speak up!

It's no good having a great EBA if you're not there to enjoy it. YOUR union will never stop fighting rogue employers who don't give a shit about you, or the safety of the job. We won't tolerate them sacrificing YOU just so they can get the job finished, or for the sake of saving them dollars!

“  
LET'S BE VERY CLEAR TO THEM ALL –  
THE JOB STOPS IF IT'S NOT SAFE!  
”



**ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**



ADDRESSING MEMBERS SWITZER DISPUTE



BRISBANE WHARFIES



OUT AND ABOUT IN PERTH WITH MICK BUCHAN

## DP WORLD FILE FOR NATIONAL STRIKE ACTION!

Talks with DP World seems to have broken down with our Maritime Division applying to the Commission for a ballot to start protected action.

The company are proposing a 32% wage cut and massive changes to the wharfie's rosters. One of the membership's claims is for a 10% per year wage increase which should and will end in a blu if I'm any judge. Good luck and full support to our Maritime Division.

**"ONE IN, ALL IN!!"**

## CFMMEU BACKS IN BLUE COLLAR UNIONS OR BEST PRACTICE PRINCIPLES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

As Australia strives towards achieving a zero-emissions economy, the pace of transformation to greener alternatives of power such as wind, solar, hydro, and other emerging technologies will continue to gain momentum.

The Renewables industry has the potential to create thousands of maritime and construction jobs around the country, and it is our job to ensure that these projects uphold the core values of unionism - benefiting workers, minority groups and the broader community.

In August, I attended the ALP National conference, and spoke in support of the ETU's motion, calling for the implementation of industry best practice principals for the new energy sector.

These principals cover workers' rights, adequate licencing, the highest standards in occupational health and safety, participation of women, veterans, and First Nations people, as well as addressing local procurement through manufacturing supply chains.

The motion was unanimously endorsed and will be used as a baseline to hold the ALP accountable on a long-lasting clean energy legacy that we are proud of, where no Australian is left behind.

I would also like to congratulate our CFMEU Construction Division speakers, Joe Myles, Kylie Brown and Jimmy Harris, for speaking to resolutions on the rights of workers to be represented in the workplace and sham contracting.

## UNANIMOUS ALP SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIAN DECOMMISSIONING INDUSTRY

Multinational oil and gas companies have been allowed to get away with dodging their responsibilities of cleaning up after themselves for too long. With thousands of kilotons of expired oil and gas structures rusting away in our oceans and little accountability from the Regulator, the Maritime division of the CFMMEU called for the implementation of a decommissioning industry with best practice principals that support full removal and remediation of the seabed. This will support thousands of jobs for seafarers and construction workers.

Our coast is not a dumping ground for disused oil and gas property, and we will continue to fight to hold these grubs to account!

**"LET'S DO IT TOGETHER – BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T FIGHT, YOU LOSE!"**



PATRICK'S SYDNEY MEETING



VIC DELEGATION TO ALP CONFERENCE



DECOMMISSIONING INDUSTRY RESOLUTION UNANIMOUSLY VOTED UP!



CFMEU GENERAL MEETING SOUTH AUSTRALIA



MUA STOP WORK MEETING SOUTH AUSTRALIA



WA SECRETARY MICK BUCHAN AND SIMO AT HOUSING CRISIS RALLY

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA CFMMEU STRONGER TOGETHER!



Brothers/Sisters, last month I was fortunate enough to spend some time with our Comrades from the MUA and CFMEU in South Australia and let me tell you, they are doing a great job for the membership there!

Brett Larkin, Secretary of the MUA South Australian Branch, has been working hard to service the membership from one side of S.A to the other, covering the waterfront in Port Adelaide, Whyalla and Port Lincoln. The membership at Flinders Container Terminal in Port Adelaide is booming and the Comrades working there are about to go into an EBA campaign. With the backing of Brett and the whole MUA, they will be pushing for the best wages and conditions they can get! In a time when the cost of living is so high, it's great to see the Maritime divisions workforce is in good hands, fighting against the bosses and pushing hard to secure a genuine pay rise for the brothers and sisters across the waterfront in South Australia.

Our Construction divisions State Secretary, Marcus Pare, has been going gang busters these last 18 months, growing the branch by over 2000 members. With the help from his dedicated team of organisers and officials, Marcus and the SA branch are changing the mindset of construction workers on site across the state. While I was there, I addressed the members at their monthly meeting at the union rooms, as well as at a toolbox on site in North Adelaide.

The rank and files response to the way the branch is moving forward is incredible, they pay no attention to the rubbish statements in the local newspapers about the CFMEU. They know that the officials are out there every day fighting hard to secure the best for the membership, and they won't stop until the industry is secure! When the Master Builders have to go as low as saying "The CFMEU will destroy the industry with their demands" they actually mean "We don't want extra profits going to the workers who break their bodies to make the boss money".

If the Master Builders believe that the CFMEU won't push for higher rates of pay, better insurance policies, a greater life/work balance and better outcomes for our members, then they seriously need to re-evaluate what they think this great union does!

The future is bright in South Australia with the amount of Construction work taking place, expansions on the Ports to help with the amount of cargo coming in through the wharves, and the strong leadership that is shown from both Marcus and Brett from our two separate divisions of the mighty CFMMEU. It's a great time for the state that is only getting better, but we must never forget that the Union is not a spectator sport and the stronger, more active the membership is, the better outcomes we all strive for will be achieved!

**"FROM COASTAL WAVES TO TOWERING HEIGHTS! UNITED WE FIGHT FOR WORKERS RIGHTS!"**

In Unity, James Simpson (Simo)

## ORGANISING THE RENEWABLES INDUSTRY – IF WE DON'T, WHO WILL?

I want to highlight the efforts of our organisers who are putting in the groundwork with our research on renewable energy projects that have begun. Both Rhett Campbell and Gerry McCrudden have had good wins on RJE Global's battery farm in Cranbourne, which after their dedicated organising now has all CFMEU contractors and a shop steward on site. RJE Global is actively pursuing new opportunities within the renewable energy sector and our intent is to ensure that CFMEU agreements are in place when these projects kick off. Well done to Rhett and Gerry.

Emma Cain - National Research Officer/Policy Advisor



MEMBERS AT FLINDERS CONTAINER TERMINAL PORT ADELAIDE



ORGANISERS COREY & MARK WITH MEMBERS AT GOLDEN PLAINS

# GALLERY



ADDRESSING MEMBERS MELBOURNE TUNNEL SITE



CFMEU WOMEN POWER!



GOTTA TEACH 'EM YOUNG!



WA CONSTRUCTION & MARITIME RALLY TOGETHER



ALP CONFERENCE ETU & CFMMEU DELEGATES



SWITZER PICKET LINE MELBOURNE

**WE WORK TOGETHER WITH  
BLUE COLLAR UNIONS**

**BATTLES WE DON'T  
FIGHT, WE LEAVE FOR  
OUR CHILDREN!**

Members, I just want to close out on our position with respect to other Unions. Many times, over the years, we've had demarcation disputes, protecting our union. Looking back, was it productive, no it wasn't, but it's always better in my view to have 5 unions bluing with the boss, not just us doing it for everyone!

Yes, we will always protect our work, yes, we will always fight for our work, but looking back, it's always better to have us all on the one page! Think about it, one day you will need those other unions in your corner, like they will need us. **It's not being weak, it's being smart.**

In closing, remember guys, safety is number one, it's our business. Your family comes first, so pull up if the jobs not safe, and reach out to your delegate and your union.

In Unity,

**Christy Cain**

National Secretary CFMMEU