



CFMEU 'old guard' playing musical chairs in construction unions

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CFMEU union officials with a history of flouting the law continue to be employed by construction unions despite the Federal Government placing the union into Administration in a bid to clean it up.

Matthew Pollock, Executive Director of Master Builders NSW said that the decision of the CFMEU NSW Branch to employ Dean Reilly a disgraced former official from the Qld Branch of the union had heightened the concerns of construction contractors as it was the latest instance in a disturbing trend.

“We acknowledge the Administrator’s role in the departure of some of the most notorious and high profile CFMEU officials from the union, but its record is more questionable regarding officials with similar rap sheets, but who aren’t household names.

“CFMEU officials are showing up working for the union in different state jurisdictions or for other notoriously militant construction unions. In his report for the Qld Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU, Geoffrey Watson SC was crystal clear that union official Dean Reilly should have his employment ‘immediately terminated’. Yet this person who was fined more than \$48,000 for breaking the law, including safety laws and has been denied a Right of Entry permit by the Fair Work Commission for not being sufficiently fit and proper now has been given a job with the union in NSW.

“Other CFMEU officials with extensive rap sheets have also been given jobs at other construction unions including the Electrical Trade Union (ETU) which has a history of militancy second only to the CFMEU.

“Had the CFMEU Administrator used the powers it has been given to remove these people, they’d be automatically banned from holding a position in any union. Instead, we now have some of the most militant unionists playing musical chairs between construction unions.

“This does not address the problem and raises serious concerns for industry about what happens once the Administration is wrapped up.

“Master Builders Australia released a 6-point plan to address the ongoing issues in the construction union. One point directly addresses the issues of fit and proper persons who hold key positions in the CFMEU.

“The Administration was always only the first step. We now need to see real action if we are going to see permanent change. If we fail, ever taxpayer will pay the price, as we’ve seen in Victoria, Matthew Pollock said.

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