

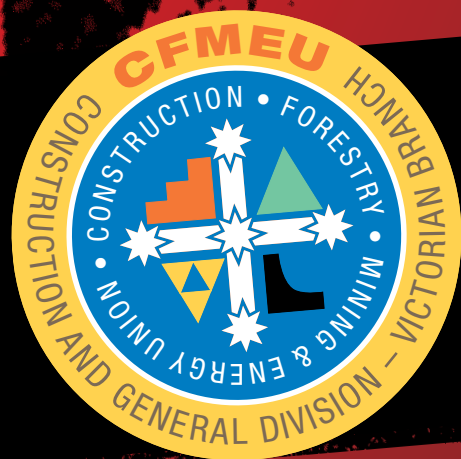
DON'T LET THE ABCC TRAMPLE ON YOUR WORKING RIGHTS.

The ABCC has stepped up its unfair and unwanted laws by trying to ban Union stickers and even Cummo's flags on building sites. Enough's enough!

Union members who stick together, win together.

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DON'T LET THE ABCC TRAMPLE ON OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Surprise Surprise!

The ABCC has moved its anti-Union campaign up a notch with on-site restrictions, forcing construction workers to remove hardhat stickers and all Union material. Ridiculously, it has even banned us from displaying the John Cummins Foundation Memorial Flag on sites. The ABCC reckons that stickers and flags are seen to 'convey a message that union membership is not a matter of individual choice'.

But the evidence on-site shows that any political stickers, especially those critical of the current government are being targeted in the purge – confirming that the ABCC is Howard's anti-union police force.

These idiotic bans are yet another move in the attempt to restrict and diminish the basic freedoms of workers in the construction industry, which the ABCC has done continually throughout Howard's reign.

Tell the ABCC to pull its head in. Get behind your Union, and don't let the ABCC trample all over our rights and freedoms.

Watchdog accused over site bans on stickers

EXCLUSIVE
By MICHAEL BACHELARD

THE building industry watchdog has been accused of acting as John Howard's political policeman by ordering removal of stickers and posters from sites of the Prime Minister, says a report from the Australian Building Construction Commission.

The ABCC also ordered that a flag advertising a trust fund for brain tumour victims be taken down from sites because it is based on the Eureka flag, which it considers a construction union symbol.

Richard Burke, a union delinquent on a city building site, was told by his employer to remove his car sticker, which read "For our kids' sake, Howard has to go!" or he would no longer be able to park his car on the site.

The ABCC, set up by the building commission to keep the building industry in check, has ordered construction companies to make sure their sites are free of union signs, posters and paraphernalia, saying they "convey a message that union membership is not a matter of individual choice".

But at a Hawthorn site the foreman, who said he was acting on orders from the commission, has gone further by ordering the union to remove stickers that contain no union symbolism but criticise WorkChoices and Mr Howard.

One such offending sticker calls the Prime Minister "Con-Man", with his picture in the O.



A building site lunch room with anti-Howard stickers. PICTURE: MICHAEL CLAPHAM/AGNES

Another says: "WorkChoices and John Howard? Not my choice!" Neither sticker identifies the union.

Construction union assistant secretary Bill Oliver said the stickers were in the union shop steward's office and the lunch room of the site.

"Workers have been bombarded with \$116 million of taxpayer-funded advertising about WorkChoices, but they get ordered to take down a few stickers that advertise their opposition to it," he said. "It's a bit rude."

The commission ruled this year that the Eureka flag was a union-related symbol that implied CFMEU membership was

company would "reinforce to all Victorian operation staff that no advertising material is contrary to the code, is to appear on our sites".

But ABCC commissioner John Lloyd denied he had ordered the removal of straight political material, only union advertising.

"In its report to the company, the ABCC identified the display of numerous union posters and paraphernalia as inconsistent with the national code," he said.

"The ABCC did not identify any material of a political nature as being inconsistent with the code. The term was used by the company, not the ABCC."

A Baulderstone Hornibrook spokesman said the company was "not in a position to comment".

The cancer charity flag is designed to raise money for the John Cummins Memorial Fund, named after the former union militant who died of a tumour last year.

His widow, Di, said yesterday the charity was a sub-fund of the Melbourne Community Foundation, set up to donate money to the Austin Hospital for cancer support, and towards scholarships for disadvantaged young people in Melbourne's north.

The flags are sold for \$100 each and the charity has already raised \$100,000.

"I'm not surprised, but I'm extremely disappointed with the ABCC, and I probably wouldn't want to say any stronger emotions than that," Ms Cummins said.

compulsory on a building site, in breach of the freedom-of-association provisions of WorkChoices.

A letter from builder Baulderstone Hornibrook's Victorian general manager, Ian Luck, to ABCC official Helen Evenden, seen by The Age, confirms that the builder has recently been audited by the commission and has been found in breach of the freedom-of-association provisions. If companies refuse to comply with the commission's orders they can be banned, under the Government's National Code of Practice, from doing construction work on any Federal Government-owned building site. Mr Luck said the

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