



## EBA talks underway



The CFMEU leadership is holding regular negotiations with bosses over your next EBA.

The CFMEU wants to see rights that were removed under the Liberals' WorkChoices laws put back in the 2011 agreement. These include better protection for shop stewards and stronger penalties for bosses who breach the EBA. The Union also wants improvements to some conditions and solid pay rises.

The current industry EBA expires on 31 March. Under it, workers will receive a 4.5% pay rise on 1 March. Cbus contributions go up to \$144.60 per week from 1 July.

Hopefully an agreement can be reached in the near future and members can get their boss signed up to the new deal. Strikes and other action can be taken if agreement isn't reached.

Members will be kept up to date through the Union's newsletters, journal and website.

### Safety round-up

A rigger was injured recently when a brand new soft 'sausage' sling ripped while lifting a 4-tonne valve into place during a shutdown at Boral Cement, Waurm Ponds. The valve fell into the knuckle boom he was working from 12 metres above the ground.



This was another example of a soft sling being wrongly used to lift a load with sharp edges.



A worker with Quinn Civil received 2 damaged legs (1 broken) and 3 broken ribs when he was hit with this rubber plug during pneumatic testing of the wash water pipeline at the Eastern Treatment Plant.



### Survey still running

Members who haven't completed our online survey need to do so now.

It only takes a few minutes, and gives the Union feedback on what you would like to see in the next EBA and what you think of the CFMEU. All answers are confidential.

Complete the survey by following the link button from our website [www.cfmeuvic.com.au](http://www.cfmeuvic.com.au)

CFMEU  
SURVEY  
2011

### Mopping up after S&J

Around 100 blokes were out of pocket in late January after S&J Formwork went bust. Unpaid wages, holidays, Cbus and other entitlements totalled around \$500,000.

CFMEU Organisers have won payment of lost wages and entitlements where the workers have stayed on the job. In cases like this, it is important that the affected workers remain united on site. This gives them a strong bargaining position to get back everything they are owed.

The other lesson of this collapse is that you should always check that your Cbus, Incolink and long service are paid up on time. **Don't wait until it's too late to take action.**

# 6 REASONS WHY THE AUSTRALIAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION MUST GO IN 2011



There were emotional scenes in Adelaide last November when rigger Ark Tribe was found not guilty of refusing to attend an ABCC interrogation. While it was a triumph for the CFMEU's legal team and a great day for the workers, the ABCC and the unjust building industry laws remain in place.

## 1. THE POWERS OF THE ABCC ARE UNWORKABLE

The not-guilty verdict against CFMEU member Ark Tribe demonstrated that the ABCC has been acting illegally – in breach of its own laws. Even they don't fully understand them.

'I didn't set out to test these laws. I'm just an ordinary bloke who went to work one day on a construction site in Adelaide.

'The last two years have been shocking, it's been a nightmare, I'm glad it's over. We got 'em...you can't do this to us.'

**Ark Tribe**

## 2. THE ABCC IS BIASED

Of 115 court cases all but two or three have been against unions.

'I've heard of the ABCC prosecuting construction workers, threatening to take their houses away by fining them. I've never heard of them sticking up for a worker.'

**Rohan Tobler, Carpenter**

## 3. THE POWERS OF THE ABCC ARE UNJUSTIFIABLE

The ABCC has extreme powers that strip legal rights from construction workers.

'It has powers that not even police agencies have. It has the ability to force people to give evidence against themselves, to give evidence against their families, to give evidence against their workers.'

**Professor George Williams, Constitutional Law Expert UNSW**

## 4. THESE LAWS ARE MADE FOR BIG COMPANIES

In 2010 the ABCC fined one employer \$12,000 for denying union access to a construction site for a safety check. In an industry where a worker dies on average each week, this is a slap on the wrist. Unions are being fined hundreds of thousands of dollars for representing workers and holding meetings.

## 5. A WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY

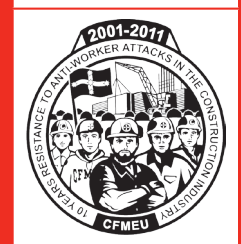
The ABCC wasted a million taxpayer dollars in its failed attempt to prosecute Ark Tribe. Each year the ABCC costs us \$30 million to run. The director is paid \$475,000 a year.

## 6. AUSTRALIA IS IN BREACH OF ILO CONVENTIONS

In 2010 the International Labor Organisation – part of the UN – slammed the building and construction laws for the seventh time for undermining workers' rights to participate in collective action and to be represented by their union.

'The ILO has been very clear that the ABCC does not comply with Australia's international obligations. It has powers that cannot be justified and it has powers that are not appropriate in a fair and democratic nation.'

**Professor George Williams**



AUTHORISED BY BILL OLIVER, SECRETARY, AND TOMMY WATSON AND JOHN SETKA, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF THE CFMEU CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL DIVISION. WWW.CFMEU.VIC.COM.AU