



**MEDIA
RELEASE**

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Union endorses Green vote as Federal Labor retains anti worker laws

The Victorian branch of the CFMEU will be endorsing a vote for the Greens in the Senate this federal election due to the federal government's refusal to abolish the ABCC and restore construction workers the rights available to every Australian.

CFMEU Victorian Secretary Construction Division Bill Oliver said the historic shift away from giving whole hearted support to the ALP is due to the erosion in health and safety since the inception of the ABCC.

"There has been an increase in the rate of construction workers killed on the job, the government has back flipped on its approach to the ABCC and as a result we will endorse a vote for the only party in favour of abolishing the ABCC.

"Endorsing a vote for the Greens in the Senate is our only option to remove these bad laws. The Greens are the only party who has acknowledged that tax payer funded government bodies should not be removing the rights of construction workers.

"We accepted Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard's promises before the last election, and look where that has got us. We have a government who continues to use tax payer funds to attempt to threaten, interrogate and imprison construction workers, workers with families like Ark Tribe.

"We must be clear that this decision is a response to a specific policy, not a wholesale rejection of the ALP.

"This decision is not one we've undertaken lightly. We know that there are members of the ALP, particularly in the Senate, who are in favour of returning construction workers their rights and fulfilling the previous promises. However we recognise that they will be forced to tow the party line.

"But let's get this straight – if Julia Gillard and Kevin Rudd had the political courage to commit to their convictions, this measure would not be necessary.

"We cannot conscientiously sit by and allow our workers lives to be placed at risk or fined for talking to their union.

"We cannot nor will not sit idly by while bad laws make our workplaces more dangerous. We will continue to campaign for the abolishment of the ABCC.

"We cannot advocate a vote for a party whose deputy leader continually refers to our workers as criminals.

"The ILO has stated that these laws are biased against workers, which we, the government and the opposition are well aware of. But if the Greens are the only ones prepared to do anything about that, then we're prepared to support them in the Senate.

"We have said time and time again, the key to making construction sites safer is to allow a union presence on site and to abolish the ABCC, and we will not stop fighting to reinstate our rights," Mr Oliver said today.

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401726476

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