

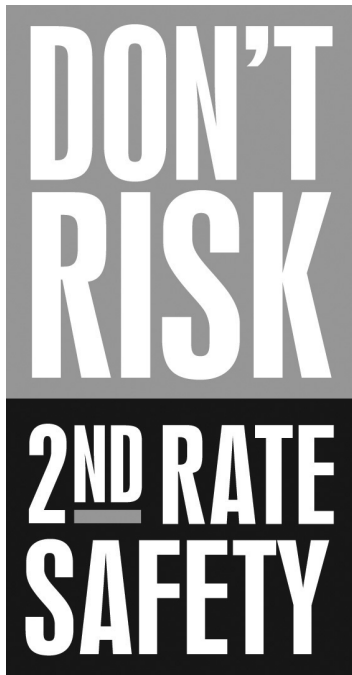
National OHS laws threaten Vic Safety Reps

Victorian OHS rights are set to go backwards under proposed national law changes.

Canberra and the states are in talks to bring the different systems into 'harmony'. Rather than building safety up to a high standard though, governments seem intent on watering it down.

In Victoria, the biggest issue is the undermining of workplace safety reps. The proposal as it stands would:

1. Weaken the right to attend training.
2. Restrict a rep's ability to issue PINs and direct a cease-work.



3. Make it much harder for reps to enlist the help of others, including their union organiser.
 4. Make it easier for employers to have a rep disqualified.
 5. Limit the role of a rep in resolving issues.
 6. Remove the right to remain anonymous when reporting an issue.
- Talks between the governments are continuing. Now is the time to show them that workers will not accept weaker safety rights on site.

No retreat

In the building industry we've seen too many tragedies and fought too hard for better safety to accept going backwards now.

COMING EVENTS

ALL UNIONS DELEGATES AND OHS REPS RALLY

Update and briefing on the proposals

**10.00am Wednesday 19 August Storey Hall Auditorium
RMIT Level 5, 336-342 Swanston St**

ALL UNIONS MASS RALLY

**10.00am Tuesday 1 September
Trades Hall Lygon St, Carlton**

Westgate update

Workers on the Westgate Bridge are sticking together in the face of Holland's latest stupidity – and winning.

As work resumed following the bitter struggle of earlier this year – provoked by Holland's sacking of 39 CFMEU and AMWU members who resisted attempts to undermine industry pay standards – it was anticipated everyone could get on with the job.

These hopes were dashed with the sacking of CFMEU shop steward Canice Lynch on Friday July 23. Workers backed their Rep on the day and the matter was listed for hearing in the Federal Court.

The judge promptly ordered Canice reinstated for the second time. He was only back on the job under an injunction granted after Holland's earlier attempt to rub him out backfired.

With the CFMEU and other unions now reaching a workable demarcation deal, it is time for John Holland to pull its head in and sign an agreement.

Since losing the big blue earlier in the year, they have twice been embarrassed in court and most recently lost the desalination plant tender.

Unfortunately, this builder seems to be a slow learner and there are signs it might continue its counterproductive ways. If so, the workers on the job have shown they are more than Holland's match and will stick together behind their teflon steward.

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win!

Caelli workers win hands down

Attempts by Caelli Constructions to break the industry-standard EBA have been smashed by a united workforce.

Company bosses admitted defeat in early July over their attempts to get employees to vote up a shabby, non-union agreement.

Not surprisingly, the unionised workforce wasn't conned by an agreement that would have:

- Given them a weak 3% pay rise
- Forced them to take RDOs on weekends
- Made them walk up 9 floors, and more.

While Caelli was lining up its accountants to run a bodgie vote on their agreement, the union held a ballot to approve industrial action, which won 97% support.

Riled up workers followed a 24-hour stoppage with an indefinite strike and before long Caelli agreed to sign up to the industry standard.

For sure, this was a huge victory for the Caelli workers who deserve a pat on the back.

However, it is also a win for all CFMEU members as it has beat-back an attempt to undermine hard-won standards and sent a message to other employers thinking of trying it on.

Ark Tribe back in court

350 construction workers and other well-wishers cheered South Aussie rigger Ark Tribe into court on Tuesday.

He was appearing at the latest mention of the case brought against him by the ABCC. For refusing to be interrogated about what workmates discussed at a safety meeting, he faces 6 months in jail.

Ark's stand is making the public sit up and take notice of the extreme actions of the ABCC. He is back in court on 30 October.

Watch the short film the Union has made about Ark's case at: www.rightsonsite.org.au

For a DVD of the film, contact the Union office on (03) 9341 3444.



Authorised by Bill Oliver, Secretary,
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