



# Bridge works shut down over safety

JEFF WHALLEY

VICROADS are scrambling to fix a raft of safety concerns on the Moorabool St Bridge after furious unionists shut the site down yesterday.

The works, which include the creation of a widened walking lane, have created gridlock for Geelong drivers with lanes shut down as workers rush to meet the August deadline.

CFMEU Geelong organiser Brendan Murphy yesterday said it was the worst site of any civic works project he had seen in Geelong.

"The way this has been set up is a disgrace and is

endangering lives," Mr Murphy said.

Pressure is mounting on the project, which needs to be finished before the world's best cyclists race over the bridge in September as a part of the UCI Road World Championships.

"Why doesn't the Australian building commission take a look at these conditions instead of pursuing workers?" Mr Murphy said.

The safety complaints included:

**NO PROPER** hand rails for workers along perilous parts of the bridge;

**NO KICK BOARDS** to stop objects falling off the bridge

onto joggers or rowers;

**NO QUICK** route in or out in case a worker is injured;

**EXPOSED** wires that workers could get impaled on;

**INADEQUATE** safety barriers protecting workers against the traffic, and;

**TOILETS** that are also used by the public that were covered in human faeces.

"We've got an obligation to make the job safe for people," Mr Murphy said.

"The plastic barriers which are supposed to be full of water are empty, if they get hit by a car they become a projectile. The metal props meant to hold up bits of

concrete are old and not structurally sound."

Spokesman for the company behind the project, Northvic, would not comment yesterday.

VicRoads acting regional director of the South Western region Vince Punaro said his organisation took health and safety seriously.

"Works have stopped on the Moorabool St Bridge. To ensure the safety of those on-site, the site will remain closed until VicRoads is satisfied that all safety concerns raised have been appropriately investigated and addressed." Mr Punaro said.

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STALLED: CFMEU's Brendan Murphy, independent consultant Maurie Hill and civil organiser Adam Hall on the bridge.



Traffic issues around the works could now be prolonged