

# CFMMEU

CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY  
MARITIME MINING & ENERGY UNION

JUNE  
2023

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY CAIN



**CFMMEU LEAD!**

**TRUE LEADERSHIP IS IN ALL OF US!**

Brothers & Sisters, we are all leaders in a progressive, strategic, rank & file union. The only difference is we all play different roles.

From the Membership meetings, to the Delegates meetings, to the Organisers meetings, to the Executive meetings and to the National Council meetings – you ALL play a role no matter what your position is!

It's very important for a successful union that runs massive campaigns to take the entire union with you, and to always have debriefs and report back to the membership locked in. We at the CFMMEU do this better than any other union in my view. That's why we're feared and hated by most employers all around this country.

Some ego's will be pissed off by this article, but most progressive unions would agree with me. Just ask the question "Why is the CFMMEU growing in membership?". The above answers it.

So, be proud of who WE are and try to express in an organised manor your views on some of the now sadly to say, non-union people. Lead by example, we may never get it right all the time, but we will ALWAYS have a go for the membership and other progressive like minded unions.

**"IF YOU DON'T FIGHT, YOU LOSE!"**

**WE AGITATE, EDUCATE, ORGANISE!**

**DECENT WAGES!**

**DECENT CONDITIONS!**

**SAFETY ON THE JOB!**

**SUPERANNUATION FOR WHEN WE RETIRE**

**A WORLD THAT COULD LIVE IN PEACE!**

**THAT'S WHAT WE WANT &  
IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK!**

**WE AGITATE, EDUCATE, ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**

**ORGANISE!**



MELB QUARTER LENDLEASE WITH MICK MYLES VIC VICE PRESIDENT



MEMBERS AT TULLAMARINE WATPAC



MUA SWITZER PICKET LINE

# RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN 2023-2025

Members, it is projected that there'll be \$76 billion dollars of investment in the renewable energy over the next decade.

Tens of thousands of jobs will be created in construction and maintenance of wind, solar, hydro and other renewable energy projects on and offshore. We know that transition from traditional high emission industries to a new green economy is already seeing jobs lost, and also jobs created. The main challenge for unions is the jobs lost are typically well paid and fully unionised, whilst many of the jobs created are non-union and low paid.

We, along with likeminded unions need to be at the table and aspire to have this new industry fully organised with Union Agreements.

It's such a massive campaign with many aspects to it and that is why it needs full cooperation from us all nationally. Every one of our branches and its members will each play an important role. This campaign will include an industrial, political, social and international component.

Let's all work together to achieve outcomes for all our combined membership of the CFMEU/MUA.

All of us at the CFMMEU will ensure that the construction of these massive renewable energy projects is carried out by union labour on decent wages and decent conditions of employment. Together, we will WIN!

**"DO NOTHING, NOTHING CHANGES!! UNION POWER!!"**



## ENSURING YOUNG WORKERS DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND

Young and less experienced people working onsite are at greater risk of being seriously or fatally injured on the job. They are more likely to have no insurance or insurance that doesn't cater for higher risk work.

Cbus Super has fought to include insurance that is designed specifically for people working in the building and construction industry and have ensured that young people are not excluded. Cbus is one of few funds that can now provide important default cover for young workers following the decision to provide them with a Dangerous Occupations Exemption.

Over the last three years, **206,218 Cbus** members have been covered under the Dangerous Occupation Exception, and **\$49.4 million** in insurance claims has been paid to **393 members** who otherwise would have lost insurance or not been insured\*. When Cbus Workplace Coordinators visit injured members or their grieving families, they see first hand the financial and emotional impact that insurance payouts can have. \*Between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2023.

Cbus Coordinator Senior Manager and former CFMEU delegate Rick Ortega said, "Every single one of these 393 claims tell a devastating story, that would have been so much worse without the Dangerous Occupation Exception. These members and their families would have received \$0 at a time when their lives have tragically been touched by serious injury or worse. "

Rick's message to members is to "make sure you are insured appropriately for the work you do and think about how you or your family cope in the case of tragedy without some back up."

You can find more information about Cbus insurance at [cbussuper.com.au/super/my-insurance-options](http://cbussuper.com.au/super/my-insurance-options)



RICK ORTERGA CBUS

Insurance is issued under a group policy with Cbus insurer, TAL Life Limited ABN 70 050 109 450 AFSL 237848. This information is about Cbus. It doesn't take into account your specific needs, so you should look at your own financial position, objectives and requirements before making any financial decisions. Read the relevant Cbus Product Disclosure Statement to decide whether Cbus is right for you. Also read the relevant Target Market Determination at [cbussuper.com.au/tmd](http://cbussuper.com.au/tmd). United Super Pty Ltd ABN 46 006 261 623 AFSL 233792 as Trustee for the Construction and Building Unions Superannuation Fund ABN 75 493 363 262 (Cbus and/or Cbus Super).



NSW BRANCH DELEGATES 100% SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLES CAMPAIGN



CONSTRUCTION MEETING IN PERTH



COST OF LIVING RALLY WITH WA SECRETARY MICK BUCHAN

## MOVING FORWARD WITH INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNING!



Brothers/Sisters, while we have been working towards National agreements and MoU's (Memorandum of Understanding) in the Renewables space between all divisions with our local comrades from the PPTU,

ETU, and AMWU, one thing that we are beginning to understand is the enormous impact that global union solidarity brings to a successful campaign.

As shipping is an international business, other divisions like the Maritime have needed to have those strong connections with other unions around the world to get leverage on the bosses. Unifying with like-minded unions on a global front is something that the Maritime Division has done well for many years, with the MUA's National Secretary Paddy Crumlin leading that charge as the President of the ITF (International Transport Federation). If you didn't know already, the ITF is made up of 670 unions, representing 18 million transport workers from 147 countries worldwide. International pressure made up by this global network has ensured some huge wins for thousands of workers and is a solid reminder of the strength workers have when unified.

As Construction has always been dealt with more locally or interstate builders and sub-contractors, there really hasn't been a great need for a global strategic attack, until now. With the booming renewables sector in regional areas all happening at once, jobs are being developed by international

hedge funds with deep pockets, bringing with them global companies that hire a migrant workforce to build these projects.

Most of these workers are being exploited, getting paid below award conditions, not getting the legislated requirements such as superannuation or long service leave and are thrown to the scrap heap if they get hurt.

This is why now, more than ever, we need to focus on international force. Through our affiliations to the BWI (Building and Woodworkers International) in Construction and the ITF in Maritime, we are now getting strategic plans in place. So far, we have had discussions with Terry O'Sullivan and Brent Brooker of the Labourers Union of America (LIUNA) which has opened doors to the NABTU (North American Building Trades Union). NABTU has 16 Unions affiliated throughout the United States with a combined workforce of 3 million members. By having the backing of our international counterparts, the balance of power will swing back to our favour, and we now have the chance to have some good wins in the renewables industry.

This struggle of ours knows no boundaries. There is no difference between blue collar workers in America or Europe building these renewable projects, or our Australian construction membership. If we work together as a collective effectively, the opportunity to bargain for the best wages and conditions will only strengthen and we cannot lose!

**WE ORGANISE AS ONE, WE FIGHT AS ONE, WE WIN AS ONE!"**

In Unity  
**James Simpson (Simo)**

# ORGANISE!

# ORGANISE!



MAY DAY NEWCASTLE



MELBOURNE PPTU YOUNG ACTIVISTS MEETING



WA BRANCH MEETING

# GALLERY



UNITED WITH THE FIREFIGHTERS RALLY PERTH



PAUL TZIMAS VIC ORGANISER ADDRESSING THE MEMBERSHIP



DP WORLD WHARF MEETING MELBOURNE



ADDRESSING PATRICK WHARFIES SYDNEY



VIC CONSTRUCTION TOOLBOX MEETING



SYDNEY CONSTRUCTION SITE MEETING

## RETIREMENT OF DAVE NOONAN

**A DEDICATED  
TRADE UNION LEADER!**

The National Office team would like to say farewell and thank you to Dave Noonan who recently retired as National Secretary of the Construction Division.

Dave was the face of the Union through two anti-union Royal Commission's and worked tirelessly in advocating for the abolishment of the ABCC, supporting Ark Tribe in the dark days of this disgraced regulator, and standing up and protecting the Union while everyone else seemed to be against it. Standing up for every single member of ours and when everything seemed to push us back, you Dave, pulled us through, and we came out stronger than ever before.

It's been an absolute honour to have worked alongside you Dave, and we're grateful for all the knowledge and skills

you've shared with us. As a senior union official, doing this kind of work isn't easy, but your leadership and expertise have been an inspiration, and I'm confident you'll achieve great things in the future.

On behalf of myself and the National Office team, all the very best mate.

**"I SAY UNION,  
YOU SAY NOONAN!"**

In Unity,

**Christy Cain**

CFMMEU - General National Secretary

