

Environmental and Occupational Health &amp; Safety Unit

# OHS ALERT

## EXPLOSIVES NOT IN OUR INDUSTRY!

**A recent tragic fatality involving explosives has once again highlighted why we won't and don't accept them in our part of the industry. They are dangerous, unpredictable and uncontrollable.**

In the case of the fatality, the explosives were being used to "widen" a trench on a domestic property development. One of the charges didn't go off.

When the worker - who had over 30 year's experience using explosives - went into the trench to investigate why and what was happening

- the charge exploded with devastating consequences.

This is why we say, a methodical, planned and controlled procedure - such as digging and widening excavations and / or trenches with the correct, proper and appropriate machinery such as excavators - is far safer.

If the ground is harder than first thought, if there is discovery of large volcanic rock or any other hard compounds that are proving stubborn to "shift" - just stop and get a bigger machine to do the job.

If anyone ever comes to you on the job and says we'll blow it out (or up!) or even just



proposes to use explosives on the job - just say NO - and contact your OHS rep, and/or the CFMEU immediately.

There are better, safer and far more reliable ways to get the job done and get you home safely.

**CONTACT CFMEU: 9341 3444**

*Safety is union business.*

**STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. COME HOME.**