

THU 11 JULY 2019

# Daily Media Overview



S22



**COPYRIGHT** This report and its contents are for the internal research use of Mediaportal subscribers only and must not be provided to any third party by any means for any purpose without the express permission of Isentia and/or the relevant copyright owner. For more information contact [copyright@isentia.com](mailto:copyright@isentia.com)

**DISCLAIMER** Isentia makes no representations and, to the extent permitted by law, excludes all warranties in relation to the information contained in the report and is not liable for any losses, costs or expenses, resulting from any use or misuse of the report.













## ACTU lobbies crossbenchers to oppose Coalition's 'unfair' union-busting bill

Guardian Australia by Sarah Martin Chief political correspondent

11 Jul 2019 4:00 AM

885 words • ASR AUD 29,739 • Ministers and Department - Internet • ID: 1144076979

ACTU president Michele O'Neil says laws will make it possible for government ministers and disgruntled employers to shut down unions

Unions have begun lobbying the Senate crossbench to oppose the Coalition's ensuring integrity bill, as Labor confirm...

[Read on source site](#)

### Audience

4,336,995 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 17,430 AVERAGE STORY AUDIENCE

### Keywords

attorney general(1),Christian Porter(1),federal(2),leave(1),recent(1),Related(1),senator(2),stories(1),top(1)























































































11 Jul 2019

Age, Melbourne

Author: Noel Towell • Section: General News • Article type : News Item

Classification : Capital City Daily • Audience : 69,863 • Page: 21

Printed Size: 480.00cm<sup>2</sup> • Region: VIC • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 29,538

Words: 835 • Item ID: 1143960106

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 1 of 2

[back](#)

# Albanese facing double trouble

The Labor leader is squaring off against two tough operators in John Setka and Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Noel Towell



Who would you rather be in a fight against, John Setka or Scott Morrison?

Setka, the CFMMEU hard man, is a well-documented scary dude who has never to anybody's knowledge retreated from a confrontation and is backed by the substantial resources of his very wealthy union, and most of its other scary dudes.

The Prime Minister is the undisputed heavyweight champion of Canberra's brutal bear pit. As a political schemer, Morrison has no equal in Australia right now (think about it), and his ruthlessness shines right through the daggy dad persona.

Not an appetising choice, then, between two very tough hombres and Anthony Albanese is trying to take on both of them at once.

Pretty gutsy, Albo.

Setka is anticipated to be in court today in Melbourne to open his legal battle against Albanese's push to expel him from the Labor Party in a move that seems to have caught the Labor leadership off balance.

The CFMMEU digging in for a fight. Who would have thunk it?

But it all looked so easy last month when Albanese announced he was moving against Setka, something that successive Labor leaders had lacked the guts to do, according to the commentariat.

It seemed a good way for Albanese to assert his fledgling leader's authority and to mark out

a point of difference with his predecessor Bill Shorten.

Setka looked like a pariah without a friend in the world after his reported comments allegedly disparaging the work of domestic violence campaigner Rosie Batty, and after he faced court accused of sending threatening and abusive text messages to a woman who was later revealed to be his wife, Emma Walters.

Despite everything, including the intervention of Australia's top trade unionist, ACTU president Sally McManus, Setka still has his job as the secretary of the Victorian construction branch of the CFMMEU.

Setka has the vocal support of a minority of union leaders in Victoria and a small number of supporters, admittedly a minority within a minority, in the broader party who have been working behind the scenes to undermine Albanese's effort to kick him out.

Yes, most people in the labour movement and the ALP want him gone from both the building union and the party, and Albanese will almost certainly get his way in the end, but it's a messy old way to assert your authority.

Like it or not, the CFMMEU is important to the ALP, and while Setka remains with the union he will be a player, party member or not, and his influence extends to other blue-collar outfits who are ready, willing and able to be a

serious pain in Albanese's bum.

But that's nothing compared to his problems with Morrison.

Morrison is riding high. His success in pretty much flattening out Australia's income tax scales is a historic triumph for the followers of neoliberal ideology in this country, putting the Prime Minister well on the way to hero status in the Liberal tribe.

Morrison is in an excellent position to now go on and string together a couple of good years in office while Labor strategists try to find a weakness.

Some Labor operators are now counselling that the best they can do is keep a low profile until well into 2020 and hope the government trips over its own feet, or the economy, or both.

It's hardly the stuff to stir Labor's fighting spirit.

The passage of Morrison's tax cuts through Parliament last week was more coronation than contest, as someone once said, with the Prime Minister confident enough to leave the lifting, which wasn't that heavy, to his lieutenants Josh Frydenberg and Mathias Cormann.

The efforts of Albanese and his shadow treasurer Jim Chalmers to make themselves relevant to the debate were brushed aside with ease, leaving the Labor leader reduced to stunts, trying to amend the tax legislation with a silly name, and railing against the



11 Jul 2019

Age, Melbourne

Author: Noel Towell • Section: General News • Article type : News Item

Classification : Capital City Daily • Audience : 69,863 • Page: 21

Printed Size: 480.00cm<sup>2</sup> • Region: VIC • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 29,538

Words: 835 • Item ID: 1143960106

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 2 of 2

[back](#)

media. Because that's always a winning tactic, right?

People talk about the Coalition's empty agenda like it's a problem. It is ... for Albanese, because it leaves the government free to choose its fights where Labor is vulnerable, like, um, let's see, Setka.

The Liberals' union-busting "Ensuring Integrity Bill" has been taken out and dusted down, not because they reckon they can get it through Parliament but because it will intensify Labor's discomfort over the building union leader.

Pretty neat, eh? While Setka and Albanese slug it out in the courts, Morrison and Attorney-General Christian Porter, who have no intention of letting Labor fly under the radar, get to sink the slipper into their opponents over the continued presence of the union leader.

So Albanese's two fights look set to become one. And it's hard to see how he can win.

Noel Towell is state political editor.

*Albanese is trying to take on both of them at once.*



John Setka with wife Emma Walters outside court. Photo: AAP





































































































































