

MON 16 SEPTEMBER 2019

# Daily Media Overview



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## Setka rant against politicians 'unacceptable'

Age, Melbourne, General News, Matt O'Sullivan

16 Sep 2019

Page 4 • 381 words • ASR AUD 47,938 • Photo: Yes • Type: News Item • Size: 779.00 cm² • VIC • Australia • ABCC - Press • ID: 1172510369

Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has labelled a foul-mouthed rant by construction union boss John Setka against politicians as "unacceptable" and vowed to push on with expelling him from the Labor Party. In a tirade to union activists last week, Mr Setka attacked the credibility of independent Senator Jacqui Lambie and warned crossbenchers they would "wear the consequences" if they voted in favour of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's union-busting "Ensuring Integrity" bill.

[View original](#) - Full text: 381 word(s), ~1 min

### Audience

69,863 CIRCULATION

### Keywords

construction(1), Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining(1), Energy Union(1), John(3), Setka(8), union(9), unionist's(1)

## Setka 'threat' to senators

Adelaide Advertiser, Adelaide, General News

16 Sep 2019

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CROSSBENCH senators who were "threatened" by construction union boss John Setka during a reported foulmouthed rant are expected to receive advice from the Upper House today. Centre Alliance Senator Rex Patrick has written to Senate clerk Richard Pye and Senate president Scott Ryan about Mr Setka's warning there would be consequences for crossbenchers who supported the government's union-busting "Ensuring Integrity" bill.

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### Audience

112,097 CIRCULATION

### Keywords

John(1),Setka(3),union(2)

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16 Sep 2019

Australian Financial Review, Australia

Author: David Marin-Guzman • Section: General News • Article type : News Item  
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Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 5,117 • Words: 519  
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# Union duo plead guilty over drugs

**Exclusive**

David Marin-Guzman  
Workplace correspondent

Two construction union organisers have pleaded guilty to charges of drug possession and dealing following a cocaine bust in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union NSW organisers Nicholas Rekes and Simon Gutierrez entered guilty pleas in Sydney Local Court after police withdrew several other drug-related charges against them.

The pair were arrested in April with their boss, CFMEU NSW assistant secretary Michael Greenfield, as part of a police operation that seized \$4000 worth of drugs.

The two men were witnessed meeting Mr Greenfield at Watsons Bay Hotel in a car believed to be registered with the CFMEU, in which they allegedly gave him a small quantity of cocaine.

Mr Rekes has pleaded guilty to supplying an indictable quantity of prohibited drugs. The charge is understood to attract a potential prison sentence of up to two years.

Mr Gutierrez, who already spent seven months in prison for dealing drugs before joining the CFMEU, has pleaded guilty to possession. Additional charges of supply and dealing with proceeds of crime were dropped against both. The pair are set to face a sentencing hearing on Friday.

Mr Greenfield, the son of the union's NSW secretary Darren Greenfield, pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine in July but avoided jail or a conviction. The CFMEU still employs all three officials but has issued them a "first and final warning" while requiring them to undergo drug testing twice a week plus counselling.

A spokesman said the union was "unable to comment on matters that are still before the courts".

The pleas come as the Morrison government is seeking to push through laws that would grant courts the power to disqualify union officials if they are not "fit and proper", specifically if they commit an offence punishable by two years or more jail time.

Master Builders Association chief executive Denita Wawn said the case "bells the cat" on the CFMEU's hypocrisy. She said the CFMEU NSW was advocating a new agreement requiring employers to donate to a drug rehab facility previously found to be funneling donations to the union, yet it opposed the building watchdog, which mandated drug testing on building sites, as well as proposed laws that disqualified officials for offences attracting two years' jail.

"It's astounding that despite these charges, the three

officials concerned retain expansive rights to enter workplaces and prosecute small businesses," she said. "This is exactly why the government's Ensuring Integrity laws are so important."

Mr Gutierrez was previously sentenced to 18 months' jail, with seven months' non-parole, in 2014 for supplying drugs other than cannabis on an "ongoing basis" and in a commercial quantity. His conviction was raised last year when the Fair Work Commission considered that he was "fit and proper" for a permit to enter work sites.

The CFMEU argued at the time that his drug dealing was a "lapse of judgment" and Mr Gutierrez told the commission he was "truly remorseful" and that "working for the CFMEU has given him the opportunity to change his life for the better".



Nicholas Rekes (left) and Simon Gutierrez outside Sydney's Downing Centre. PHOTO: DAVID MARIN-GUZMAN

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# Setka rant against politicians 'unacceptable'

**Matt O'Sullivan**

Federal Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has labelled a foul-mouthed rant by construction union boss John Setka against politicians as "unacceptable" and vowed to push on with expelling him from the Labor Party.

In a tirade to union activists last week, Mr Setka attacked the credibility of independent Senator Jacqui Lambie and warned crossbenchers they would "wear the consequences" if they voted in favour of Prime

Minister Scott Morrison's union-busting "Ensuring Integrity" bill.

Mr Albanese said yesterday the union leader's outburst was another example of him using "language and behaviour that is unacceptable for anyone participating in civil society".

"John Setka brings no credit to himself or the movement," he said in Sydney's inner west.

The controversial unionist's latest outburst has raised the likelihood key Senate crossbenchers will vote to pass a version of the Coalition government's union-busting bill.

The bill would allow an independent regulator to cancel a union's registration on the basis of improper conduct, including repeated breaches of industrial laws and serious criminal offences.

Ms Lambie has vowed to

support it unless Mr Setka quits as Victorian state secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union – something he has repeatedly refused to do.

Mr Albanese said the union leader's tirade undermined the "hard work" union organisers and officials did to advance their members and the trade union movement.

"It is time for John Setka to realise that he is doing damage to the movement and, if he has any loyalty to the movement, he will act appropriately," he said.

Mr Albanese has suspended Mr Setka from the Labor Party and is still seeking to expel him.

"I am going to expel him. A political party has a right to determine who its members are.

We've done that. His values don't represent the values of Australian Labor and his actions, particularly with regard to women, certainly [are] not consistent with our values," he said.

"I said very clearly he wouldn't continue to belong to the party. He was suspended immediately. That suspension remains in place and he won't be returning."

Mr Setka lost a bid in court last month to stop the Opposition Leader forcing him out of the Labor Party, but has aired plans to appeal.





16 Sep 2019

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## Setka 'threat' to senators

CROSSBENCH senators who were "threatened" by construction union boss John Setka during a reported foul-mouthed rant are expected to receive advice from the Upper House today.

Centre Alliance Senator Rex Patrick has written to Senate clerk Richard Pye and Senate president Scott Ryan about Mr Setka's warning there would be consequences for crossbenchers who supported the government's union-busting "Ensuring Integrity" bill.

"There should be zero tolerance to threats attached to the way a senator votes," Senator Patrick said. "Neither I, nor Stirling (Griff), or Jacqui (Lambie), nor any senator should be subject to such threats."



























































