THU 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

Daily Media Overview



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Unionists say bill hides real intent

Hobart Mercury, Hobart, General News, Patrick Gee

26 Sep 2019

Page 2 • 554 words • ASR AUD 3,332 • Photo: Yes • Type: News Item • Size: 461.00 cm² • TAS • Australia • Ministers and Department - Press • ID: 1177177676

THE last of five public hearings in a senate inquiry into the Federal Government's proposed "union busting" Ensuring Integrity Bill has been held in Hobart. The senate employment committee heard from Tasmanian union officials yesterday, who expressed their fears and concerns over the "dangerous bill".

View original - Full text: 554 word(s), ~2 mins

Audience

28,265 CIRCULATION

Keywords

Attorney(1), Australian(3), Christian Porter(1), Federal(2), Porter(2)



Ensuring integrity bill: officials contradict Christian Porter on union deregistration

Guardian Australia by Paul Karp

25 Sep 2019 2:59 PM

845 words • ASR AUD 25,251 • Industrial Relations - Internet • ID: 1176936063

Coalition bill would allow deregistration for single instances of unprotected industrial action, inquiry told Departmental officials have contradicted Christian Porter's claim the Coalition's union penalty bill does not allow deregistration for...

Read on source site

Audience

4,336,995 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 16,268 AVERAGE STORY AUDIENCE

Keywords

action(4),activities(1),amendments(1),At(3),Australia(1),Australian(2),Australians(1),deregistration(10),employees(1),employers(2),employers(1),for(10),industrial(5),law(6),laws(1),legislation(1),lower(1),Melbourne(1),negotiations(1),pay(2),Registered(1),relations(1),right of entry(2),Transport

Workers(1),union(12),unionised(1),unionist(1),unions(2),Work(1),workers(2),working(2),workplace(1)



The Ensuring Integrity Bill would give Federal Court the power to cancel unions: Here's what you need to know

Smart Company Australia by Priscilla Pho

25 Sep 2019 11:57 AM

516 words • ASR AUD 854 • ABCC - Internet • ID: 1176885105

Australian Attorney-General Christian Porter speaks during Question Time at Parliament House in Canberra on Thursday, 25 July, 2019. Source: AAP Image/Lukas Coch.

The controversial Ensuring Integrity Bill will, if passed, give the Federal Court the...

Read on source site

Audience

1,796 UNIQUE DAILY VISITORS, 590 AVERAGE STORY AUDIENCE

Keywords

breaking(1), CFMMEU(3), Christian Porter(2), Construction Forestry Maritime Mining(1), Energy Union(1), headlines(1), Industrial Relations(1), Most(1), READ(2), recently(2)

Single strike action enough to ban unions under proposed laws

Canberra Times, Canberra, General News

26 Sep 2019

Page 11 • 428 words • ASR AUD 1,533 • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 241.00 cm² • ACT • Australia • Industrial Relations - Press • ID: 1177152987

JUST one strike could be enough to trigger a court process to deregister unions under laws proposed by the federal government, senators have heard. Senior bureaucrats from the Attorney-General's department faced senators in Tasmania on Wednesday over the Coalition's "ensuring integrity" bill for unions.

View original - Full text: 428 word(s), ~1 min

Audience

14,068 CIRCULATION

Keywords

action(3), at(2), Australian(4), deregister(1), deregistered(2), for(7), Industrial(3), laws(6), legislation(1), Registered(1), relations(1), strike(2), strikes(1), Tasmania(1), Tasmanian(2), union(4), unions(6), worker(1), workers(2), working(2), workplace e(1), workplaces(1)

Setka forks out \$40k of members' funds on ad

The Australian, Australia, General News, Ewin Hannan

26 Sep 2019

Page 5 • 502 words • ASR AUD 5,828 • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 263.00 cm² • National • Australia • Industrial Relations - Press • ID: 1177091154

Victorian CFMEU secretary John Setka has spent more than \$40,000 in union members' funds on a newspaper advertisement attacking Jacqui Lambie and accusing the Senate crossbencher of "blackmail". Mr Setka hit back at his opponents who have warned the controversy over his conduct was allowing the Morrison government to gain increasing support to pass the Ensuring Integrity Bill.

View original - Full text: 502 word(s), ~2 mins

Audience

94,448 CIRCUI ATION

Keywords

action(1),agreement(2),at(3),CFMEU(5),contract(1),contracts(1),deregister(1),employee(1),enterprise(1),for(7),paid(1),union(9),unions(1),workers(1),working(1),works(1)

Brickworks backs union clampdown

Australian Financial Review, Australia, General News, David Marin-Guzman

26 Sep 2019

Page 10 • 587 words • ASR AUD 4,976 • Photo: No • Type: News Item • Size: 246.00 cm² • National • Australia • Industrial Relations - Press • ID: 1177136447

Building materials giant Brickworks has publicly backed the Morrison government's proposed union laws as a way to deal with union officials who "push the envelope to its limits" when visiting workers at its sites. The ASX 200 company, which runs 32 manufacturing sites and employs 1500 workers, was the only employer to appear before the Senate inquiry into the government's Ensuring Integrity bill, which lowers the bar to disqualify union officials and deregister unions.

View original - Full text: 587 word(s), ~2 mins

Audience

38,015 CIRCULATION

Keywords

cases(2),deregister(1),Ensuring Integrity bill(1),industrial(1),inquiry(4),relations(1),right of entry(3),Union(17),unions(4),workers(5),workplace(2)

Author: Patrick Gee • Section: General News • Article type : News Item Classification : Capital City Daily • Audience : 28,265 • Page: 2 • Printed Size: 461.00cm² Region: TAS • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 3,332 • Words: 554 • Item ID: 1177177676

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Unionists say bill hides real intent

PATRICK GEE

THE last of five public hearings in a senate inquiry into the Federal Government's proposed "union busting" Ensuring Integrity Bill has been held in Hobart.

The senate employment committee heard from Tasmanian union officials yesterday, who expressed their fears and concerns over the "dangerous bill".

One speaker was support teacher and Australian Education Union member Leeanne Clifford from New Town.

She told the committee that more rules, regulations, red tape and harsher penalties could see her union tied up with administration work rather than focusing on "bigger issues".

"I joined the union because I wanted a better deal for public education," she told the Mercury.

Mrs Clifford said volunteer roles like hers were time consuming and any extra bureaucracy would likely deter future members from joining unions.

Australian Council of Trade Unions boss Michele O'Neill told the Mercury the Ensuring Integrity Bill was "undemocratic" and would make it harder for workers to win wage increases.

She said the new bill would give politicians, "disgruntled employers" and anyone with "sufficient interest" the ability

to apply to have union officials removed or entire unions shut

"Companies could tie up the union's time and resources in long, costly legal cases when all the union is trying to do is negotiate a fair deal for the workers," she said.

"It puts what can be simple mistakes or minor breaches to-

gether with more serious matters, and it has really extreme penalties."

Attorney-General and the Federal Government's Industrial Relations Minister, Christian Porter, said the Bill was aimed at holding to account "rogue" union officials who "repeatedly break the law".

But Ms O'Neill said there were already laws and sanctions in place to do that and the laws targeted workers, while ignoring "bad behaviour of employers and bad behaviour of politicians".

Mr Porter told the Mercury it was "ridiculous" to suggest current laws were adequate, "when we see continued breaches of industrial laws by militant unions such as the CFMMEU".

"The central question for the ACTU is how they can turn a blind eye to the sort of behaviour demonstrated by the CFMMEU, which is not in the interest of union members, and damages the ability of the overwhelming majority of lawabiding unions and employee

associations to go about their good work," he said.

Mr Porter said the Bill would give courts greater scope to penalise misconduct "by the small but damaging minority of officials that regularly break the law" and improve the services offered to union members.

Ms O'Neill accused the Government of using the crackdown on "rogue" union officials as a distraction while "trying to constrain workers'

unions in favour of supporting big business".

"What we know is the Government turned a blind eve to Commonwealth Bank breaching 53,000 criminal breaches for money laundering," she said.

"What we know is they let George Calombaris, who stole \$8 million from workers' wages, off with a slap on the

"If the Government really had a concern about what was happening to workers in this country, then they would be doing something about wage theft.

With Labor and the Greens set to oppose the legislation, the Government is relying on four of six crossbench senators to help vote it through.



26 Sep 2019 Hobart Mercury, Hobart

Author: Patrick Gee • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Classification : Capital City Daily • Audience : 28,265 • Page: 2 • Printed Size: 461.00cm²
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Page 2 of 2



BETTER DEAL: Australian Education Union member Leeanne Clifford spoke at yesterday's senate inquiry in Hobart.

Author: Rachel Withers • Section: Current Affairs • Article type: News Item Classification: National • Audience: 0 • Page: 1 • Printed Size: 0.00cm² Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: N/A • Words: 0 • Item ID: 1176790845

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Page 1 of 5



Boris Johnson's prorogation ruled illegal

Author: Rachel Withers

PRO ROGUE

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing calls to resign after the Supreme Court found he acted illegally in suspending parliament, with the House of Commons due to reconvene on Wednesday morning.

The highest court in the UK ruled in a unanimous verdict that Johnson's advice to the Queen was unlawful "because it had the effect of frustrating or preventing the ability of Parliament to carry out its constitutional functions" Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn says Johnson is not fit to be prime minister and must resign, sentiments echoed by Liberal Democrats leader Jo Swinson and London Mayor Sadiq Khan. Speaking alongside Donald Trump at the UN, Johnson said he strongly disagreed with the ruling, rejecting suggestions he should resign and hinting at the possibility of another prorogation. CHINA STRIKES BACK

A high-level Chinese embassy delegation has accused prime minister Scott Morrison of showing "the US view through his mouth", after the PM echoed Washington's claims that China should no longer be treated as a "developing economy", the Nine papers report.

Speaking at the Chinese embassy in Canberra, Renmin University professor Wang Yiwei said the criticism was not helping a relationship already damaged by "groundless" allegations of foreign interference. East China University Australia studies director Chen Hong said that Australia was playing a "pioneering role in an anti-China campaign". US President Donald Trump mirrored Morrison's China calls in a "nationalistic" speech at the UN, showing just how aligned the leaders have become. ZERO CARBON **GOALS**

A coalition of Pacific island nations are seeking \$500 million to make all Pacific Ocean shipping zero carbon by 2050, The Guardian reports. The Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership — made up of Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu — will try to raise money through grants, loans, private sector investment and blue bonds, using the money to retrofit existing vessels with low-carbon

Author: Rachel Withers • Section: Current Affairs • Article type: News Item Classification: National • Audience: 0 • Page: 1 • Printed Size: 0.00cm² Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: N/A • Words: 0 • Item ID: 1176790845

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technologies as well as to buy new zero-emissions vessels. Scientific adviser for the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport Dr Peter Nuttall told The Guardian that the Pacific, which relies on shipping for travel, medicines, and livelihoods, "cannot wait for the rest of the world ... The Pacific did nothing to cause climate change, but we're about to get smashed by it."

[free_worm]THEY REALLY SAID THAT?

It is perfectly usual to have a Queen's speech. That is what we want to do, but more importantly let's be in no doubt there are a lot of people who want to frustrate Brexit. Boris Johnson

The UK prime minister suggests those who challenged his prorogation wanted to "frustrate Brexit", contrary to his claims that the suspension had nothing to do with Brexit.READ ALL ABOUT IT

Level 4 water restrictions for Dubbo as calls made for statewide water rules 'It is likely an extended period of low interest rates will be required': RBA hints at another cut

Robodebt collector's parent company harassed consumers, ACCC says Thousands protest against new criminal code in Indonesia

Sir David Attenborough slams Australia's record on climate change Schools given all-clear to dump NAPLAN online for pen and paper test Australians spend \$30 billion a year on out-of-pocket health costs Doctors back inquiry on kids' trans care (\$)

Multi-billion-dollar Indonesian trade deal at risk in crossbench revolt (\$) Veteran Labor figure warns against dumping policy platform, says win within 'striking distance'

Major boost in regional holiday workers off back of ad blitz, visa overhaul Sunglass Hut staff underpaid \$2.3 million

The Catholic church rethinks seminary training after its child abuse scandalCRIKEY QUICKIE: THE BEST OF YESTERDAYAnatomy of a scandal: how the government stacks the AAT with its political cronies David Hardaker and Justine Landis-Hanley Sep 24, 2019

"The government has subverted the established appointments process, halting job advertisements and interviews, handing unfettered power to the attorney-general to hand-pick new members, and nobbling the statutory

25 Sep 2019 Crikey.com.au, Australia

Author: Rachel Withers • Section: Current Affairs • Article type: News Item Classification: National • Audience: 0 • Page: 1 • Printed Size: 0.00cm² Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: N/A • Words: 0 • Item ID: 1176790845

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review body of senior public officials (established to provide independent oversight of the tribunal) by withdrawing its funding. The sheer number of new members, some of whom have no experience in the legal profession, has led to a slowdown in decision making. In 2013/14, before the government began its assault on the AAT, the migration and refugee tribunal decided 24,729 cases. In 2016 that number fell to 16,111 and is slowly building up to an estimated 20,500 for 2019. That amounts to a 25% drop in productivity."The attorney-general, transparency and the AAT David Hardaker and Justine Landis-Hanley Sep 24, 2019

"When federal Attorney-General Christian Porter commissioned a former High Court judge to conduct a major review of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal last year, he did so despite being advised by the judge that someone in the judge's own "immediate family" was a member of the AAT — a relationship Porter did not publicly disclose. The former judge is lan Callinan AC, one of Australia's most distinguished jurists with a well-known conservative predisposition. Inq has confirmed that Callinan's "immediate family" member is his daughter, Fiona Meagher — now a full-time senior member of the AAT's Brisbane registry on an annual salary of \$325,000-385,000."We can't tackle climate change without tackling striking laws Benjamin Clark Sep 24, 2019

4

"I doubt Scott Morrison has any intention of facilitating the positive freedoms required to foster a vibrant civic culture. After all, a truly liberal framework would allow even more protesters to highlight his government's callous disregard for our planet's future. But the union movement, currently mulling its next move after the "Change the Rules" campaign, should take heed of society's growing appetite for civil demonstration and imagine the possibilities that could arise if workers' passion was less shackled."THE COMMENTARIAT

Little Tamil 'a citizen' (\$) – John Gava(The Australian): "The debate about the Tamil family from Biloela commonly assumes the little girl at the heart of the legal manoeuvres is not an Australian citizen. While technically correct, this view is founded on a decision at odds with almost a century of High

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Court citizenship decisions. Tharunicaa, the two-year-old girl at the centre of the legal dispute, should be a catalyst to overturn this decision and make it crystal clear that anyone born in Australia is an Australian citizen, including Kopika, the couple's eldest girl."

Scott Morrison is vulnerable on two fronts with his China argument –David Crowe(The Age/Sydney Morning Herald): "The first is the timing. Morrison chose to set out his views on China days after an extraordinary series of meetings in America that brought him deeper into Trump's orbit. The second vulnerability is climate change. Morrison talks of how China should be treated under global agreements on carbon emission reductions but he is not leading the way with commitments of his own. Morrison has little to say about his own government's targets for emissions beyond 2030 and did not turn up to the United Nations summit on climate change."

Pauline Hanson is a patsy for a mob of angry men (\$) -Tory Shepherd: (The Daily Telegraph): "For years, men's groups such as this have been pretending to care about male suicide and mental health, when in reality they are seeking vengeance for their own experiences. If they were serious about helping men, they'd be campaigning for access to mental-health support for men, before, during, or after the family law processes. They'd be fighting for better resources for the courts, better mediation processes, judges who specialise in domestic violence. Instead of tub-thumping about how they are the victims of women and the courts, they would start a men's shed, or ask their friends "R U OK?". If they had an ounce of integrity, they'd take all that energy they're spending bitching online to fight disadvantage, homelessness and loneliness. They'd be frothing at the mouth about how high suicide rates are in Aboriginal communities, or starting outreaches into rural and remote communities. And they'd be passionate about working out what is hurting men, and what evidence-based strategies there are to help."HOLD THE FRONT PAGE

WHAT'S ON TODAY

Canberra

The ACT Legislative Assembly is expected to pass a bill legalising the possessing and growing of cannabis for personal use. Hobart

The Education and Employment Legislation Committee will hold a public

25 Sep 2019 Crikey.com.au, Australia

Author: Rachel Withers • Section: Current Affairs • Article type: News Item Classification: National • Audience: 0 • Page: 1 • Printed Size: 0.00cm² Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: N/A • Words: 0 • Item ID: 1176790845

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hearing as part of the Inquiry into Ensuring Integrity laws, hearing from the Tasmanian branches of various unions and the Attorney-General's department.

Melbourne

Patrick Ryder and Josh Jenkins will be among players at launch of AFL Trade Radio.

A committal mention will be held for Sky Rail builder Kory Oxley, accused of directing tax-payer funded labourers to renovate his boss's home. Roads Minister Jaala Pulford will hold a press conference, urging Victorians to be safe on the roads over the long weekend and school holidays. The Federal Court will hold an interlocutory hearing in the human rights case between Sister Marie Brigid Arthur and the NT Government, with the activist nun the litigation guardian for detainees at the Don Dale and Alice Springs.

Sydney

CEDA will bring together senior stakeholders from the water sector to examine security and sustainability amid prolonged drought, ageing infrastructure, and enhanced consumer expectations

Perth

CBH CEO Jimmy Wilson will speak at "International competitiveness: economic driver for WA", providing his insights around innovation, transformation, and productivity.

Adelaide

The South Australian upper house will vote on a Greens motion declaring a climate emergency.

New York, UŠA

Prime Minister Scott Morrison will deliver Australia's 15 minute national statement to the UN General Assembly.



26 Sep 2019 Canberra Times, Canberra

Section: General News • Article type : News Item • Classification : Capital City Daily Audience : 14,068 • Page: 11 • Printed Size: 241.00cm² • Region: ACT

Market: Australia • ASR. AUD 1,533 • Words: 428 • Item ID: 1177152987

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Page 1 of 1



Single strike action enough to ban unions under proposed laws

JUST one strike could be enough to trigger a court process to deregister unions under laws proposed by the federal government, senators have heard.

Senior bureaucrats from the Attorney-General's department faced senators in Tasmania on Wednesday over the Coalition's "ensuring integrity" bill for unions.

The proposal makes it easier to ban rogue unions and their officials, while also making it harder for unions to merge.

Industrial relations lawver Rachel Volzke, from the Attorney-General's department, said in order for a union to be deregistered, a single unprotected industrial action would also have to interfere with government services.

Or, it would have to harm - or be likely to harm - the health and safety of the community.

Senators had earlier heard from the Tasmanian branch of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation, who were concerned that strikes calling for safer workplaces could result in an end to the union.

The ANMF pointed to nurses and midwives working in emergency departments, psychiatric wards and prisons.

Industrial action was sometimes necessary to ensure worker safety, which could be seen as disrupting delivery of government services, the ANMF said.

Parts of the proposed

legislation would apply retrospectively as courts can look at the whole picture when making a decision, Ms Volzke confirmed.

But the relevant event must occur after commencement of the bill, she said.

The laws would close a loophole allowing deregistered union officials to hold "shadow" roles where they still play a role in controlling the organisation, she added.

Registered Organisations Commissioner Mark Bielecki also appeared at the hearing, declaring from the outset he wouldn't be drawn on whether the new laws were needed.

ROC has only taken three matters to court from hundreds of compliance issues,

and focuses on educating unions to help them follow the rules.

Meanwhile, construction union official John Setka has accused Senator Jacqui Lambie of blackmail as he campaigns against the Coalition crackdown.

Mr Setka, who has already been referred to police and a parliamentary committee for allegedly threatening senators over their support for the laws, singled out the Tasmanian crossbencher.

"The last thing that Australian working families need is Jacqui Lambie's per-

sonal attempts to blackmail myself, our members and 13 million other Australian workers," Mr Setka said in a full-page ad in the Herald

"I implore all Australian workers not to be distracted by this well-organised personal campaign against me. and instead contact senators and urge them to reject these extreme workplace

Mr Setka remains locked in a legal battle with Labor after being suspended for bringing the party into disrepute.



26 Sep 2019 The Australian, Australia

Author: Ewin Hannan • Section: General News • Article type : News Item Classification : National • Audience : 94,448 • Page: 5 • Printed Size: 263.00cm²

Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 5,828 • Words: 502

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Setka forks out \$40k of members' funds on ad

EWIN HANNAN WORKPLACE EDITOR

Victorian CFMEU secretary John Setka has spent more than \$40,000 in union members' funds on a newspaper advertisement attacking Jacqui Lambie and accusing the Senate crossbencher of "blackmail".

Mr Setka hit back at his opponents who have warned the controversy over his conduct was allowing the Morrison government to gain increasing support to pass the Ensuring Integrity Bill.

Senator Lambie has said she will vote for the bill, which makes it easier to deregister unions and ban union officials, unless Mr Setka quits. "While the sideshow surrounding me and my personal life — fuelled by politicians, union officials and anonymous faceless

men — continues, the real issue is the Ensuring Integrity Bill, which will affect millions of Australians' democratic rights," Mr Setka says in a one-page advertisement published in Melbourne's Herald Sun.

The Australian understands the advertisement, funded by CFMEU members, cost more than \$40,000. A spokesman for Mr Setka said the advertisement was financed by union members and not Mr Setka personally, arguing it was "union business".

In the ad, Mr Setka says the "last thing that Australian working families need is Jacqui Lambie's personal attempts to blackmail myself, our members and 13 million other Australian workers".

"No politician has the right to dictate who should lead a union. It is the democratic right of all union members to elect their leaders, just as it is the voting public's right to

elect their politicians," he says. "It's crucial that neither I, nor any union, ever gives in to blackmail. At the end of the day our members want me to stay, so I stay."

He says that "under my leader-

ship the Victorian branch has grown from 23,000 to 32,000 members and is predicted to increase to 35,000 at a time when the rest of the union movement is drastically shrinking".

A spokeswoman for Senator Lambie said she stood by her previous call for him to quit.

Meanwhile, a Queensland construction company, its general manager and a senior employee

have been penalised \$38,000 for refusing to engage a steel fabrication firm because it did not have a CFMEU enterprise agreement.

Federal Circuit Court judge Michael Jarrett imposed a \$32,000

penalty on Devine Constructions for taking adverse action against Craig's Engineering. Devine's general manager, Michael Tucker, and its contracts administrator, Andrew Blore, were penalised

\$3000 each. Judge Jarrett ordered \$19,000 of the penalties be paid to Craig's Engineering.

After Craig's Engineering submitted a tender for the structural steel works, Mr Blore told the company: "We would like you to do the job but you don't have an EBA agreement."

Another company, Steel Construct, was awarded the contract after it submitted a revised quotation that included extra costs "with regards to the EBA with CFMEU". "The relevant conduct took place in an environment in which the CFMEU were making threats of delay and disruption and engaging in coercive conduct," Judge Jarrett said. "The respondents' conduct against Craig's Engineering has the potential to perpetuate a culture of submission in the building and construction industry."

26 Sep 2019

Australian Financial Review, Australia

Author: David Marin-Guzman • Section: General News • Article type : News Item Classification: National • Audience: 38,015 • Page: 10 • Printed Size: 246.00cm²

Region: National • Market: Australia • ASR: AUD 4,976 • Words: 587

Item ID: 1177136447

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Brickworks backs union clampdown

David Marin-Guzman

Workplace correspondent

Building materials giant Brickworks has publicly backed the Morrison government's proposed union laws as a way to deal with union officials who "push the envelope to its limits" when visiting workers at its sites.

The ASX 200 company, which runs 32 manufacturing sites and employs 1500 workers, was the only employer to appear before the Senate inquiry into the government's Ensuring Integrity bill, which lowers the bar to disqualify union officials and deregister unions.

Brickworks' group corporate affairs and industrial relations manager Wladyslaw Kluktewicz told the inquiry on Wednesday the laws were needed to deal with "rogue" officials visiting nonunionised parts of its operations.

Our concern is the ones that take advantage and push the envelope right to the limit. By doing that they actually tie up the resources of management ... We support a form of regulatory body to ... tie in these rogue union officials, Mr Kluktewicz said.

He said an example of "pushing the envelope" was a right of entry dispute Brickworks had with the Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union, where officials sought to enter one of its sites to talk to workers in the lunchroom.

The ... union pushed right of entry for a non-union site, where there were only one or two members, not once but a number of times," he said.

He said workers had complained about wanting to "have their lunch in peace" but the union official refused suggestions to use alternative rooms. He said the CFMEU's actions created "tension in the workplace" and "took up management time".

Asked by Labor senator Tony Sheldon if Brickworks believed the bill would deal with unions that pushed the limits to talk to non-unionised workers, Mr Kluktewicz said: "I think it deals with those rogue union officials who want to come to the site."

"There are some times when the uni-

ons and some officials take advantage of the situation and push the issue beyond the normality of just coming to the site, of visiting the site," he said.

We don't have a problem with coming to visit non-union people ... but if non-union people don't want to come to that meeting, they shouldn't be intimidated by those people."

The government's bill significantly expands the grounds to disqualify union officials, including for breaches of workplace laws and if an official has had their right of entry refused and is not deemed "fit and proper".

Mr Kluktewicz said the higher penalty regime for the construction industry introduced in 2016 "doesn't detract" rogue union officials.

"We need something to ... not control but [so] there are some consequences to some of the actions they take.

However, he said Brickworks "probably would not" take advantage of provisions in the bill to allow employers to apply to disqualify an official.

Generally, if you can talk it through and work it through with union officials you can resolve the issue. It's when it becomes hard-nosed and you can't get across the line, and that's the problem we're faced with sometimes."

Electrical Trades Union national assistant secretary Michael Wright told the Senate inquiry earlier that the bill's consequences were so grave, including loss of livelihood, that it created an incentive for officials not to represent members properly.

"It's not the cases that get to court that bother me, it's the cases that never happen because this is about making unions ... more timid."

Key points

Government's laws would make it easier to disqualify union officials.

Brickworks tells Senate

inquiry reform is needed to deal with rogue officials.