




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MOTION

Palaszczyk Labor Government, CFMEU

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.24 pm): I actually respect the old working-class values of the member for Mirani—I really do—but the trouble is this: no wonder the previous speaker to the member for Mirani from the other side, the member for Greenslopes, wanted to get rid of the ABCC. If we go back only eight weeks ago, the ABCC—which, obviously, does absolutely nothing, member for Greenslopes—produced something which I read with great interest this afternoon. I refer to a document that is an industry update of a court summary of recently finalised matters. It states that the CFMEU was penalised \$86,000 after trying to force Queensland workers to join the union. The CFMEU and a union delegate were penalised \$86,000 after attempting to force two Brisbane construction workers to join their union or be turned away from site. Furthermore, the Federal Circuit Court found that the union's Daniel Barker had demanded the workers pay \$1,290 in fees or they would not be able to work on a Kelvin Grove apartment project. No dough, no start according to the CFMEU! In fact, in his decision on 30 May Judge Jarrett said that the contraventions were serious, member for Greenslopes, because they had deprived two men of their fundamental right to work.

Mr Bleijie: Their right to work?

Mr MINNIKIN: Their right to work; I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. ABCC Commissioner Nigel Hadgkiss said it was against the law to try to force workers to join a union to enter a construction site. To quote his words, and I would ask that the member for Greenslopes in particular listen up, he said—

Membership of a union doesn't determine a person's ability to earn a living in this industry.

It gets better. If you roll the tape further, there is more—more about the CFMEU in court. A court has imposed the maximum possible penalty on the CFMEU's Dave Hanna—the one and only Dave Hanna—for breaching right-of-entry laws during a heated site visit in Brisbane, but we will come back to Mr Hanna if time permits because he makes what the member for Ashgrove was going to do in relation to dump spoil on the Barrier Reef look like nothing. He was going to dump tonnes and tonnes—what did he get rid of; 7½ tonnes?—worth of evidence.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order: sub judice.

Mr MINNIKIN: Moving on, let us cut to the chase: the unions' grip on the Australian workplace has been weakened by the fact that now in the private workforce they represent less than 10 per cent of the workforce. The Premier talks about jobs, jobs, jobs, but what about excessive construction costs resulting from inflated pay rates and work stoppages? I look forward to the contribution from the member for Brisbane Central to explain that. That is robbing around about 1,700 Queenslanders of their right for a job right now. In fact, these higher labour costs are pushing up project costs by around about—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Industrial Relations, you will have ample opportunity to respond. Member for Mudgeeraba, I can hear you as well. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Chatsworth clearly.

Mr MINNIKIN: She will have the opportunity to respond, but probably not as eloquently. Time will tell. We will see. We look forward to her contribution because in her contribution of five minutes I would like her to explain to the House why that has added around about \$280 million a year in relation to actual construction costs in this state. If we go through the enterprise bargaining agreement for the CFMEU between 2015 and 2019, it includes amongst other things a pay rise of five per cent a year for five years, union delegates to be reclassified to a higher level five per cent above the trade level—nice if you can get it—a jump-up clause requiring subcontractors to pay the same rates as a main builder on a project and a tool allowance of \$2,380 per year for labourers and \$6,500 for tradesmen. But wait for it: if an employer borrows a power tool for use by another worker, they must replace it with a brand-new tool. Those opposite absolutely need to uncouple themselves from this militant union right now.