




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

MOTION

Australian Building and Construction Commission

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.05 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the member for Kawana in relation to the proposed abolishment of the ABCC by the Labor government—a government that has proven over time that it does not care about workers in this state and does not care about employers in this state in the construction industry or otherwise it would have done something about the CFMMEU itself. We saw it across the road. We saw it at 1 William Street in that the costs of 1 William Street blew out because of the CFMMEU. Let me read—

If ever there were an industry in which special or innovative measures to ensure compliance with industrial laws were warranted, it is the construction industry. In the absence of regulatory change aimed at addressing the Union's apparent indifference—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! You may continue, member for Coomera.

Mr CRANDON: Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will continue—

In the absence of regulatory change aimed at addressing the Union's apparent indifference to the unlawfulness committed in its name, the only obvious way to effect a change of heart on its part is to focus upon those at the proverbial coalface.

That is what Justice Snaden said. I quote—

I have no wish to add my voice to the chorus of condemnation of the Union's systematic unlawfulness, for there is nothing of substance to add to what has already been said repeatedly.

That is what Justice Anastassiou said. I quote—

The CFMMEU is a large organisation with significant financial resources which exhibits an ongoing willingness to contravene the Fair Work Act ...

That is from Judge Jarrett. I quote—

The Union's record of conventions has been described in other cases as 'disgraceful and shameful', 'deplorable' and 'dismal' ... I agree with those descriptions.

That was from Justice Rangiah.

It is a disgrace that the Labor government wants to stop an independent regulatory authority that protects workers' rights. Why would those opposite scrap the Australian Building and Construction Commission? Then again they have form in scrapping things that work, scrapping things that protect people, scrapping things that fix things. The boot camps in Queensland are a classic example. They gave them no chance whatsoever. The facts speak for themselves. The ABCC has recovered over \$600,000 in wages and entitlements for 579 employees, as has already been outlined. Labor's call to scrap the ABCC means that it does not care about those 579 workers.

The hypocrisy of the industrial relations minister is staggering. Six months ago the minister criminalised wage theft and now she is calling for a statutory body that prosecutes against this offending to be scrapped. It is absolutely ludicrous. Unlike Labor the LNP believes in protecting the rights of

hardworking Queenslanders—employees and employers alike. That is important. There are employers who are suffering. They have been put to the blowtorch by the CFMMEU, forcing costs up in Queensland. The CFMMEU are the bullyboys.

As I said earlier, we saw it across the road at 1 William Street. We see it around South-East Queensland and we see it around the state. The CFMMEU has to be held to account through the courts. They are riding roughshod over workers, they are riding roughshod over employers and they are certainly driving up the cost of construction by illegal strike action. The ABCC does stop that and hold them to account.

Ms Grace: Riveting!

Mr Crandon: Thank you!