



A bulletin of Defend the Unions - Defend the CFMEU's Rank-and-File Committee / Issue 5, 28 May 2025

# FIGHTING ADMINISTRATION

## 2 down, over 260 to go!

DUDC welcomes the news that two former CFMEU elected officials have been removed from the FWC's 'removed persons lists', and while it begins to return some union principles to the union, fair and democratic processes remain further than Mordor.

It will be great to see Nigel Davies return. He has a long and respected history serving the Victorian Branch and the Divisional office. The FWC and CFMEU administration recognised that even though Nigel had breached the FWA during his time as an official, these were not reflections of his personal character or meant that he was unfit to represent workers.

This reminds us that Australia's current industrial relations systems (designed by the Gillard Labor Government), which dictate our rules and rights at work, including the ability for workers to organise - are absolute shit in the first place.

The CFMEU's administration, and the removed persons list in particular, bring to our attention the abhorrent and [clearly] inconsistent attack on our democracy and human rights.

What steps are the administration taking to see that the democratic principles of the union - the same principles Irving has repeatedly claimed to champion - are restored to the members, and those remaining on the removed person list - especially those who have had no convictions, allegations or access to procedural fairness under this administration.

## Administration Was Never About Criminality By Zane Alcorn, CFMEU Member

Michael Hiscox, Construction Forestry Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU) ACT branch secretary, has been sacked by the appointed administrator Mark Irving and the branch placed into administration..

The ACT and Western Australian branches were the only two which were not placed under administration by [Labor's forced administration law](#), which allows an appointed administrator to sack CFMEU officials without needing to provide an explanation.

Hiscox has not had any allegations of criminality raised against him and he has no right of appeal. Irving told the CFMEU ACT branch that he had "lost confidence" in Hiscox.

Administration has gutted the union of its elected leadership and conflated allegations of criminality with militancy.

Irving said Hiscox was sacked because the ACT branch had suffered an 18% decline in membership and a loss of \$500,000 since it was put under administration. But this ignores the impact of administration as the key driver of this decline.

There has also been a [major decline in construction](#) in the ACT. It is common for CFMEU members to temporarily resign from the union if they are not getting work on union jobs and need to either wait for work to pick up again, or work in the lower paid and under-unionised residential sector.

[Defend the Unions, Defend the CFMEU](#) (DUDC) believes that the administrator targeted Hiscox because his opposition to administration had the potential to "either diminish Mark Irving's powers or give him the boot altogether". *(cont'd on next page)*

Hiscox, on behalf of the CFMEU ACT branch, released a withering critique of Irving in January. He requested transparency around how members' money was being spent on administration staff and officials. Irving and his opaque administration have ignored this and all other such transparency requests from CFMEU branch meetings and officials.

Irving's disregard for members and officials and the lack of accountability makes a mockery of his claim to be "democratising" the CFMEU. He has never faced a branch meeting to explain himself or listen to member's concerns. The CFMEU under administration is less transparent and accountable to members, and far less democratic.

Unionists need to defend Hiscox and demand he be reinstated. His sacking has nothing to do with allegations of criminality within the CFMEU. He is being silenced for speaking out against the government takeover and straight jacketing of his union.

(Originally published in Green Left Weekly, as "CFMEU sacking shows union administration was never about criminality", edited for length and clarity.)

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## Film Screening



See you this Friday at the MUA, 46 Ireland St West Melbourne for our screening of "Rocking the Foundations," a film about the BLF and its Green Bans.

## Your Station, Your Voice - 3CR Radiothon!



3CR Community Radio is passing the hat around in June during our annual Radiothon fundraiser to keep us on-air for another year.

Our community-owned and operated radio station has been punching well above its weight for almost five decades now, putting our voices at the front of community issues & campaigns, workers' struggles, and blues as early as the 70s onward. We have dedicated ongoing coverage of the widespread attacks on the trade union movement, and the government's unlawful administration of the CFMEU.

Our humble station is wealthy in resources the bosses and billionaires could never buy, remaining free from corporate control and government influence - and we intend to keep it that way!

Right now, we need community donations to maintain our independent voice. Any amount, big or small, makes a real difference—and all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. Support this living, breathing community asset by donating to the 2025 Radiothon today. To donate, go to [3cr.org.au/donate](https://3cr.org.au/donate), call 03 9419 8377, or drop in during business hours - at 21 Smith St Fitzroy. One struggle one fight - get involved today!

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