

## Media Release

This meeting of the National Building Industry Group Unions and others, comprising twenty-three union leaders representing over a quarter of million Australia workers, continues to share our outrage and condemnation for the forced administration of the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU by the Albanese Government. The CFMEU has been denied basic natural justice. Trial by Parliament and media is not how we do things in Australia.

This meeting further condemns the CFMEU Administrator for attempting to bar CFMEU officials from attending today's meeting. It is in the best interests of members that officials be allowed to participate in debate.

The administration sets a worrying precedent for all unions. If a government can legislate outcomes for one union, then all unions are at risk. A union belongs to its members. Union members and their democratically elected leaders decide the future of their union, not knee-jerk legislation.

Since the administration, conservative oppositions have already started to attack other militant unions supporting the CFMEU. The Liberal / National Opposition of NSW called out the ETU as "being next" – purely because ETU members had been taking lawful protected action. This will only worsen as the administration continues, and anti-union forces look to use this legislation as a "how to" guide to destroy the union movement. Peter Dutton has already moved a bill to bring back the ABCC.

Against this backdrop of anti-union attitudes, this meeting resolves to collectively fight against these underhanded attacks and to work to protect our union democracy. The forced administration, driven by Albanese, Murray Watt, and Tony Burke, and supported by the ACTU, has opened the door for a sustained attack on construction workers, such as the proposal by the MBA and others to drive down wages in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis. This meeting resolves to run political, social, and industrial campaigns to fight these attacks.

**In light of the broad groundswell of support, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December the Building Industry Group Unions will hold a Trade Unions for Democracy Summit. This has evolved to be a meeting that will bring together unionists from across multiple industries and across the country.**

**The key purposes for this Summit are to protect union democracy and to discuss the future of militant trade unionism in Australia. It will consider proposals for:**

- **the creation of an alternate democratic union body to advocate on behalf of all workers;**
- **political, industry and social campaigns to support union democracy;**
- **future political funding, including supporting union political candidates; and**
- **a campaign to restore union democracy.**

This morning's meeting also welcomes the unprecedented international support from Building and Woodworkers International, the International Dockers Council, the Global Power Trade Union Congress, and individual unions from around the globe.

On behalf of the Building Industry Group Unions and others, we look forward to restoring union democracy.