

MEDIA RELEASE



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'No role for third parties in procurement decision-making' says Master Builders ACT

In the aftermath of damning allegations against the Victorian Division of the CFMEU, the ACT Division has today doubled down by calling on the ACT Labor Party to legislate a power that would allow unions even more influence over procurement.

Master Builders ACT is calling on the ACT Labor Party to stand up against the CFMEU tactics of bullying and thuggery and reject this outrageous request. Experiences in other jurisdictions, including Victoria and Queensland, show that the cost of construction can increase by up to 30% due to delays brought about by CFMEU influence on building sites. This is unacceptable given we are in the midst of the worst national housing crisis of our times.

"The principles of freedom of association and competition must be protected. It beggars belief that the CFMEU would call for the union to have even more power over ACT Government procurement decisions", a spokesperson for Master Builders ACT said.

"It is especially galling in light of the recent allegations of bullying, intimidation and corruption by the CFMEU in Victoria, which have come as no surprise to our members. This abhorrent conduct is experienced daily on construction sites around the country, and the ACT is no exception."

Master Builders ACT has been raising concerns about union interference in procurement for years. The MoU between Unions ACT and the ACT Government was inappropriate, and the Secure Local Jobs Code is worse.

"There is no role for third parties in procurement decision-making. The preliminary findings in Operation Kingfisher highlight the influence and control the union already has over the government in the ACT."

"If the CFMEU get their way, they will continue to bully and harass not only our builders and subcontractors, but our government officials too."

"If this proposal is implemented, it could have a devastating impact not only on the wellbeing and livelihoods of those employed in our industry, but could also put even more barriers in the way of reaching housing targets and building the infrastructure needed to support our communities."

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Media enquiries

Interviews are not available at this time. The above quotes may be attributed to Master Builders ACT. Tara Nichols, Communications & Media Officer | tnichols@mba.org.au | 0430 026 612