



**CFMEU FORESTRY & FURNISHING
PRODUCTS DIVISION
WA DIVISIONAL BRANCH - JULY 2008**



WA Timber+Furnishing News

JULY BULLETIN

APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL ORGANISER – KELVIN REIDY

The Forestry and Furnishing Products Division of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union represents the industrial rights of workers in the timber and related industries in Western Australia.

In order to provide the best service that we can for you, and all our other members, the Union has taken steps recently to reconnect with the broader West Australian union movement. In particular the Union has arranged for its new National Organiser, Kelvin Reidy, to have an office in the Unions WA building. We believe that this will provide the Union with a great advantage in being able to access the resources and information which Unions WA can provide.

Kelvin will be commencing with the WA Branch in the week beginning 7 July. Although Kelvin is yet to begin in his new position officially he has taken calls from members already and encourages other members to contact him on 0413 223 885 if they have any problems.

NEW CFMEU FFPD WA BRANCH CONTACT DETAILS

The CFMEU FFPD is now based at Unions WA our contact details are:

Level 4, 79 Stirling Street
Perth WA 6000
Telephone: (08) 9328 7877
Fax: (08) 9328 8132
Mobile: 0413 223 885
Email: cfmeuffp@bigpond.net.au

GAS EXPLOSION

The Union is aware that quite a lot of our members have been affected by the recent gas explosion. Accordingly, we are keen to talk to any of our members who have had their employment affected so that we can provide assistance.

NEW AGREEMENTS

Several of the agreements which cover our members are currently up for negotiation or are near to expiring. The Agreements which are of immediate concern are Pinetec at their Bassendean and Collie sites and the Bunnings Agreement which ran out on the 30 June. The Union can assure its members at those workplaces that it will be tackling these agreements as a priority.

The CFMEU FFPD will also be negotiating nationally with Corinthian Doors for a new agreement as the current agreement expires in the second half of August. The Union will also be negotiating the WESFI agreement which expires in October.

AUSTRALIAN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION

The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) was established under the Howard Government. Its job is to police the construction industry. However, to do its job the Howard Government gave it excessive powers which allow it to call in any person it wants to question. Further once the person is called in for questioning they have no right to refuse to answer a question. What this means is that the right to silence, which is a cornerstone of the Australian legal system, has been removed for people called upon to give evidence to the ABCC. Most often the people called to give evidence are workers in the construction industry or union officials who represent them. For this reason the Union's view is that these draconian laws were introduced to target construction workers and their Union the CFMEU. For this reason the Union has been in discussion with other building unions to apply pressure to the Rudd Government to abolish the ABCC and the unnecessary powers which it was given by the Howard Government.

The Union considers this matter to be a crucial issue as if the ABCC remains it is the first step towards these draconian laws being expanded to cover all workers.

WA Members

For assistance with problems or issues related to agreements or workplace matters, please contact Kelvin Reidy on 0413 223 885

For Membership enquiries, please call the National Administration Centre on **1800 060 556**