

# CFMEU FFPD Western Australian District Newsletter Spring 2009



CFMEU FORESTRY AND FURNISHING PRODUCTS DIVISION

## Union Agreements - THE ONLY WAY TO GET A PAY RISE

### Award wages frozen

The Australian Fair Pay Commission has frozen the wages of 1.3 million low paid workers. In its final decision the Commission has ruled out any increase in the minimum wage.

The average award worker will lose about \$16 a week until the next wage decision is due in July 2010.

### Union Agreements the Only Way to Go

The decision means that unless workers are unionised and organised at the workplace level and have a collective agreement in place, they will not receive a pay increase in the next 12 months.

Real wages of low paid workers have gone backwards since the Commission was established by the previous Liberal Government. This decision is another attack on their living

standards and underlines the need to have your workplace 100% unionised, because without the Union your pay would be frozen.

### The Decision

In its 2009 general Wage -Setting Decision the Commission decided to:

- maintain the standard Federal Minimum Wage at \$14.31 per hour (\$543.78 per week); and
- maintain the adult rates of pay in Australian Pay and Classification Scales (pay scales) at their current levels.

The decision also applies to junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply, employees with disabilities, casual

employees and employees receiving basic piece rates of pay.



CONTACT THE UNION ON OUR NATIONAL FREECALL NUMBER: 1 800 060 556  
OR CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE [www.cfmeuffpd.org.au](http://www.cfmeuffpd.org.au)

# First Super follows the CFMEU FFPD's lead in using 100% Australian paper MADE BY UNION MEMBERS



First Super has over 80,000 members and 5,000 participating employers and staying in touch with everyone means that the fund uses a significant amount of paper products.

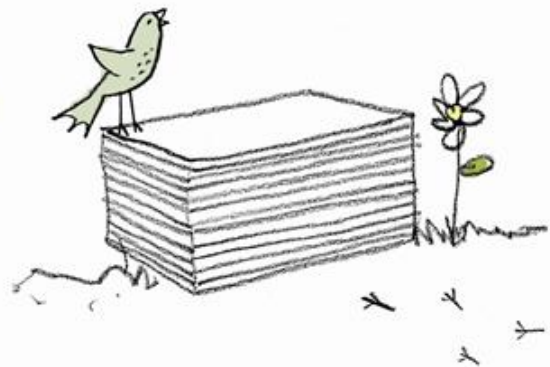
As a strong supporter of the industry First Super is committed to using 100% Australian made paper to make sure that First Super supports the people who support the fund.

In addition to being 100% Australian made, First Super has also moved to be carbon neutral in the paper it uses.

The "Carbon neutral" paper used by First is certified Greenhouse Friendly by the Australian Government which means that the carbon emissions from the production lifecycle of the paper have been measured, verified, reduced and then offset.

The "envi" range of carbon neutral paper from Australian Paper is made in Burnie to international standards and independently audited and verified.

The international standard, ISO 14040, certification of the paper life cycle covers everything from the forest to the printer, so we can be sure it carbon neutral and 100% Australian made by CFMEU FFPD and First Super members.



## Union Moves on Log Exports

The CFMEU FFPD has successfully moved amendments to the national platform of the ALP at the party's National Conference, to facilitate improved value adding and downstream processing for the timber industry.

Tasmanian District Secretary Scott McLean said that the amendments will allow for the development of a comprehensive forest plantation strategy and a national review of the impact of log exports, to ensure the

long term future of forest industries.

"We are working towards an end to whole log exports from Australia."

The Union is promoting value adding and downstream processing and improving Government engagement in the industry via a national review. The CFMEU FFPD is pushing for better support for the industry from Government and these amendments provide a platform through which this can occur.

## New Union Dues

Effective as of 1 November 2009

Member Category	\$ per week
Full time adult	\$9.25
Life Member	\$0.00
Unemployed	\$0.00
Parental Leave	\$0.00
Supported Wage	\$1.50
Junior/Apprentice	\$3.00
Part time less than 32 hrs pw	\$4.50
Workers Compensation - no make pay	\$4.50
Workers Compensation - Full Rate	As per standard adult rates

# Welshpool Laminex MDF plant closes

114 Perth workers will lose their jobs when the Laminex medium density fibreboard (MDF) plant in Welshpool shuts down fully in December.

The Welshpool plant manufactures MDF for both the Australian domestic market and the Asian export market.

The plant's technology has aged and the recession has brought about a big drop in deliveries and sales.

In addition to MDF, the plant also produces Veneers, Low Pressure Laminate (LPL) and Process Panels and bearers.

The site closure will be phased in with MDF manufacturing operations having ceased on 24 July and the remaining areas set to close by Christmas. The announcement was made on 26 June 2009.



## Target exceeded - Union raises \$1.2 million for Bushfire Appeal

**C**FMEU National Secretary John Sutton has paid tribute to the generosity and community spirit of the unions membership, as ordinary workers in the forestry and furnishing industries; mining and energy industries and the construction industry collectively exceed the unions' target of a \$1 million contribution to the Victorian bushfire appeal.

"The unions membership at workplaces across Australia have responded very generously to this tragedy.

"Both our forestry and furnishing

division and our mining division lost members in the disaster, at Marysville and Callignee."

"In addition eight Forestry and Furnishing Products Division members lost their homes, whilst twelve members of our Mining and Energy Division lost their houses as well as five members of the Union's Construction Division."

"The long term viability of the timber industry in the Central Highlands and Gippsland regions is under threat due to the massive losses of both plantation and native forests."

In response to the fires, members of the CFMEU's Forestry and Furnishing Products Division voted across the country for minimum \$20 levies per member to raise funds for the appeal. The total raised so far is \$1,025,000.



## Contact your Union

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*Forestry and Furnishing  
Products Division*

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**FIRST  
SUPER**

An Industry SuperFund



ABN 42 053 498 472

## Where's my Super Statement?

### 2008-2009 ANNUAL STATEMENTS

Members' annual statements will be completed and mailed to over 80,000 members in First Super, once the Fund has finalised its annual statutory accounts and declared and applied final investment return rates.

This process will be completed around September or early October.

Investment returns for 2008/09 will unfortunately be negative for the Growth (default), High Growth and Conservative Growth options, and positive for the Capital Stable option due

to market returns.

We will provide further information on the returns with your statements.

Members who want an estimate of their account balance can do so by accessing their account through firstonline at:

[http://firstsuper.com.au/online\\_access.htm](http://firstsuper.com.au/online_access.htm)

or by contacting our Call Centre on 1300 360 988 to request a Benefit Quote.

Please remember that this quote may change when the final rate is applied to your account.

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