

CFMMEU

CONSTRUCTION FORESTRY
MARITIME MINING & ENERGY UNION

APRIL
2023

A REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP FROM

CHRISTY CAIN



CFMMEU RENEWABLES CAMPAIGN WELL UNDERWAY!

Members, the Renewables Campaign is absolutely critical for both our Maritime & Construction Industries. We see this new industry as the future for long term, permanent, secure union jobs with workers on decent wages and conditions of employment.

We are now seeing multi-national companies wanting to once again come into Australia and rape and pillage whatever they can get hold of, without talking to the main unions in this field of just transition.

Vestas is one such company who refuses to meet and thinks that it won't get a reaction from us. How mistaken they are!

It's going to be a very interesting couple of years going forward, but as the saying goes - Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win! And Vestas, has widely mistaken the POWER of our collective unions.

If by chance you're reading this Vestas, understand, we will NEVER back down to foreign multi-national companies that want to exploit working Australians of their right to bargain collectively.

We would prefer to work with you, if not, then we box on. Vestas, have a nice day, we will catch up soon enough, I can assure you of that!

**STRONGER & UNITED TOGETHER,
WE NEVER BACK DOWN!**



ORGANISE!

ORGANISE!



MEMBERS AT THE SYDNEY RALLY



BRISBANE - FLYING THE FLAG WITH PRIDE



HUGE TURNOUT IN SYDNEY!

THOUSANDS OF CFMMEU MEMBERS RALLY ACROSS AUSTRALIA

I am glad to report that the CFMMEU lead and rallied all across Australia on some major issues of concern. Some of the right-wing employers and the Liberals have been whinging again, particularly about our great Union. Let's put it into perspective:

- 1. Silica Stone Products is deadly** to all that use it. We now have a national position that it is banned for use by our Union on mass breaches of imminent safety risks to all Australians.
- 2. We support 100% major cost of living increases**, not only for the lower paid workers, but for all Australian workers. All through the Covid pandemic, construction & maritime workers kept their industries and the economy going, and you are now seeing the enormous amounts of PROFITS that those multi-national companies

have made on the backs of the working men and women throughout Australia. They made plenty, and we owe it to our members and all Australian workers to fight for a decent wage increase. **LET'S DO THIS TOGETHER!**

3. LABOR WAS ELECTED ON THE BACK OF THE WORKING CLASS and of course we support Labor, and of course we will work with them, but those in the big house need to understand that it's a two way street that means they now deliver for us, just like the Liberals delivered for the big end of town. No more excuses, just enact your ALP platform on what you were elected on!

DO NOTHING, NOTHING CHANGES!! UNION POWER!!

EBA NEGOTIATING COMING UP – GET ON BOARD!

Members, it is my intention to continue getting on as many ships, wharves, and construction sites as possible during the run into major negotiations of our industries.

It is and always will be the union's position to take the membership with us on this journey when we go into battles.

This time around I think it will be the case, so be ready, we are up for the challenge, and everyone plays a role, **YES, EVERYONE!**

ONE DAY LONGER, ONE DAY STRONGER – FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW!

ORGANISE!

ORGANISE!



CHRISTY CAIN WITH NSW CONSTRUCTION SECRETARY DARREN GREENFIELD



PERTH RALLY



THOUSANDS AT THE MELBOURNE RALLY!

BIG WIN FOR THE MUA DIVISION IN AUSTRALIAN SHIPPING!



I'm proud to say, once again, the MUA membership got up the gangway of the international foreign cable layer, in which we achieved:

- **Wages 117% Specialist Construction Rates**
- **20% Casual Loading**
- **\$1500 Bonus**
- **\$2500 for each Australian completing the job**
- **Shared Cabin Allowance**

There is no better result than watching Australian seafarers taking back jobs on their coast! An island nation needs ships and highly skilled Aussie seafarers need jobs.

We need all political parties to recognise the critical role that MUA seafarers play in trade and national security. The ALP should legislate the Aussie flag back onto all ships plying our coast.

"WE ALL NEED TO SUPPORT OUR AUSSIE SEAFARERS!"



VESTAS – TAKING THE PISS OUT OF AUSTRALIA'S WIND!

Brothers/Sisters, Australia's energy supply is at a critical stage swapping from one source to the other and the opportunities for our great union are monumental.

The biggest space for our membership to grow and make the most out of this opportunity is with the On-shore/Off-shore Wind, but when you have companies like Vestas trying to destroy the wages and conditions that have been hard fought and won across the country, well then, we are going to have a blu!

Vestas are the biggest wind turbine manufacturer in the world, with a yearly revenue of \$23 Billion. To put that in comparison, Lend Lease are the biggest commercial builder in Australia with a yearly revenue of \$8 Billion.

Vestas pretend to be a sub-contractor on the Windfarms, but they play like a builder, hiring the civil contractors, crane operators and rigging/technician companies to pave the way for their turbines to be installed.

Their position is, it's too much to ask for them to follow Australian legislative requirements, be it amenities, safety conditions or even hiring locals.

These projects can help local communities and bring revenue to the towns, not to mention the manufacturing aspect of the turbines, if they were being done in workshops like Keppel-Prince in Portland, Victoria.

It would be an amazing opportunity for the local workforce but getting these things manufactured in China with cheaper steel, no welding checks and painting them with 6 inches thick of paint to cover the shonky craftsmanship, seems to be the Vestas model, except it hasn't paid off for them. Their turbines have been falling all over the world.

Elkton Windfarm in Michigan U.S.A, Aldermyrberget Windfarm in Sweden, Timber Road Windfarm in Ohio USA, and most recently at Alinta Windfarm in Western Australia where it cracked in half at the welds.

If the Australian Government won't hold these multi-national companies to account like Vestas, then the CFMMEU will!

"OUR JOBS! OUR FUTURE! OUR WORK!"

In Unity,

James Simpson (Simo)

National Organiser

ORGANISE!

ORGANISE!



AUSTRALIA TURBINE COLLAPSE



SWEDISH TURBINE FAILURE



VESTAS OHIO TURBINE FAILURE

GALLERY



MELBOURNE RALLY



ZACH SMITH ADDRESSING THE MELBOURNE RALLY



MEETING WITH CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN SYDNEY



NSW CONSTRUCTION MEMBERS



RENEWABLES MEETING NEW YORK



CONSTRUCTION DELEGATES MEETING MELBOURNE

OUT AND ABOUT

**BATTLES WE DON'T
FIGHT, WE LEAVE FOR
OUR CHILDREN!**

Over the course of the last month, it's certainly been a busy one. I've proudly attended National Secretaries meetings, MUA National Council, Delegates meetings, Organisers meetings, State Rank & File mass meetings, ACTU Executive, International Renewable Energy meetings and mass rallies of the CFMMEU membership.

Thanks once again for your continued support on behalf of myself and the National office team. We salute you all!!

"YOUR STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE"

In Unity,

Christy Cain
CFMMEU - General National Secretary