

**17 September 2024**

**Media Release**

**RESPONSE TO THE INTERIM REPORT OF GEOFFERY WATSON SC**

CFMEU Construction and General Administrator, Mark Irving, has released his Response to to the Report of Geoffrey Watson SC: Investigation into Allegations Against the CFMEU – Interim Report).

CFMEU Administrator, Mark Irving, will accept all recommendations contained in the Report.

Among other matters, the Response notes:

- Mark Irving has asked Mr Watson to continue his investigation in Victoria that the coercive powers vested in Mr Irving as Administrator, to will be able to be used to overcome limitation that previously applied to Mr Watson in the conduct of his investigation;
- The establishment of an Integrity Unit within the Administration to systematically investigate the mounting number of allegations;
- In Victoria, the Integrity Unit will make initial enquiries to several suppliers and their relationship with certain removed former senior officials and other former employees of the union;
- The initiation of a broader investigation into the operation of labour hire in Victoria;
- The establishment of a whistleblower service;
- The implementation of more rigorous oversight of the EBA processes within the CFMEU;
- The initiation of detailed investigations in Queensland and NSW that will look at the involvement of outlaw motorcycle gangs and organised crime groups within the construction industry; and,
- The Administration will address other matters related to corruption and criminal activity in the construction sector.

**Comments attributable to Mark Irving:**

*“Mr Watson’s Report has shed light on a cycles of lawlessness where violence was an acceptable part of the culture that exists across the Victorian construction sector and that in this cycle of intimidation and violence the CFMEU had lost control.*

*I have sought that Mr. Watson will continue his work the coercive powers vested in me as the Administrator, will enable him to overcome limitation that previously inhibited the conduct of his investigation.”*

The full response is attached.