

## Administration FAQ

What does it mean for you? What does it mean for the Union?

Key facts:

- The CFMEU is not the first union to be forced into Administration - this has happened in the past to other unions.
- The main reasons for the Administration was ongoing credible evidence of infiltration by criminal elements and corruption in the union and the inability of the union to deal with these matters internally.
- The Administration is for a specific period of time. The legislation says from 3 to 5 years. The union will be returned to democratic control of members.
- The legislation removed 12 people across Australia from their paid roles in leadership.

Who is Mark Irving and what is his role?

Mark Irving is an industrial relations barrister, who has spent over 30 years working for unions and union members.

His role is defined by the legislation.

Before he accepted the job, he outlined his key principles, which includes:

- That the union must continue to serve its members, advance their industrial interests and ensure workers are safe at work.
- That the administration will be independent of government and regulatory control, except to the extent required by existing law that oversees all unions.
- That militancy in accordance with the Fair Work Act is not unlawful. Vigorous, proactive collective struggle to advance and protect members' interests is not unlawful.
- That the union should act lawfully.
- There will be zero tolerance for corruption and for organised crime. Members of outlaw bikie gangs should not hold positions of power in the union and should not be involved in the conduct of industrial relations in this industry.
- The administrator on behalf of the union will not engage in party politics during the administration, which includes making donations to political parties, exercising positions at ALP conferences or promoting particular political candidates.

Q and A:

Who is running the union now?

The law gives the Administrator Mark Irving all of the powers to run the union. He has delegated some of that power to his appointed Executive Officers in the NSW, Qld/NT

Branch, the SA Branch and the Vic/Tas Branch. The State Secretaries in WA and the ACT remain in place but are subject to the control and direction of the Administrator. Zach Smith remains the National Secretary and is subject to the control and direction of the Administrator.

### Why did some people lose their jobs?

12 elected full-time officials have been removed from their job. This was a decision made by the Australian Parliament. The overwhelming majority (over 95%) of people employed in the union are unaffected by the Administration.

### How will things change day-to-day?

The work of the union continues. Organisers and delegates and staff at the union are continuing their jobs looking after members and keeping workplaces safe.

The union will continue to bargain to win your new EB agreements. It is currently signing up employers onto the new EB agreement as part of the usual process.

### Is this going to weaken the union?

Corruption and criminality are a big threat in the construction industry, and to the enduring strength of the CFMEU. Not removing these influences will weaken the union. Turning a blind eye to corruption and allowing criminal infiltration of the union weakens the union.

### Won't bosses just use this to undermine conditions and safety?

Some companies may view this as an opportunity to undermine safety, pay and conditions of construction workers. That is why it's so important that all organisers, reps, CFMEU staff and members work with the Administration so a strong union can be returned to the members.

Mark Irving has said in the media, to the Fair Work Commission and to the Government – this is not an opportunity for the bosses to wind back conditions.