

27 March 2018

Builders Disappointed at Union Merger Decision

Master Builders WA is disappointed at the Fair Work Commission's approval to allow the merger of the CFMEU, MUA and Textile and Clothing Union to form a super union with a \$144m annual income. This ignores the recalcitrant behavior of the CFMEU and MUA, which has proven so damaging to the state and national economies over the years.

Master Builders WA Acting Director Graeme Dix said the Association was also disappointed the Federal Government did not press its case in the Senate to put union mergers such as this under a public interest test – the same as any corporate merger.

“Rewarding the CFMEU and MUA for unlawful behavior is not in the best interest of the public good, the construction sector, the maritime sector, the state or national economic interests,” Mr Dix said.

“Unions are no longer the unsophisticated organisations of the last century that were run by leaders who were paid a pittance to operate a union with little understanding of the law. Unions these days are no different to major corporations, but they do not have to face the same rules as major corporations when merging. This is inequitable.”

The industrial relations climate in the Western Australian construction sector has been very stable in recent years. Unlawful industrial relations disputations are at very low levels. Master Builders WA wants to see this continue for the benefit of the public and all those who work in the construction sector.

Master Builders WA does not want to see this beneficial climate placed in jeopardy due to selfish union power being centered on union leaders' egos instead of the WA interest, industry interests or workers, including union members' interest.

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