

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Illegal Webb Dock Picket A Taste Of Things To Come**

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says the illegal blockade of Webb Dock at the Port of Melbourne by members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) is merely a taste of the industrial mayhem that would be unleashed if their plans to merge proceed.

“These events are reminiscent of the bad old days on the Australian waterfront, with the MUA and the CFMEU undertaking pickets based on spurious grounds, and operating in the misguided belief that they are above the law,” said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

“ALC is deeply concerned that if the MUA and CFMEU are allowed to merge into a militant mega-union, the sort of wilful illegality we are now witnessing at Webb Dock will spread throughout the nation, and across our supply chains.”

“The actions of the MUA and the CFMEU at Webb Dock are not only an attack on businesses, but on the entire community. Fresh produce is rotting on the wharf, and merchandise that includes Christmas gifts for children is unable to move,” Mr Kilgariff said.

“Quite clearly, the terms of this action are being dictated by the CFMEU, with the MUA’s members reduced to acting as pawns in a wider industrial and political game.”

“If these two unions are able to cause this level of disruption and massive financial losses when operating as single entities, just imagine what will occur if they are allowed to form a mega-union. This type of action won’t simply be restricted to the waterfront, but will occur right across the supply chain.”

“ALC [reiterates](#) its call for unions to be subjected to public interest principles that are similar to competition law principles that apply to businesses. Australia simply can’t afford to have its supply chains held hostage to the whims of a monopolistic mega-union that would be run by people who care little for the interests of consumers, or the rule of law.”

“Accordingly, ALC urges the Federal Government to progress legislation designed to subject the proposed union merger to a public interest test as a matter of urgency,” he concluded.

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