

CFMEU organiser's ute firebombed

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A CFMEU organiser's union car was firebombed in the middle of the night just three months after his house was vandalised with the words "CFMEU dog", prompting a police investigation.

NSW Police were called to a residential area in south-west Sydney at about 1am on Monday following reports of a fire and arrived to find a boat and a Ford ute alight outside the organiser's home.



The torched ute belonging to a CFMEU organiser.

Two union sources confirmed the car on fire was owned by an organiser whose house, driveway and fence were graffitied with slurs and vulgar images late last

year.

The actions are believed to be an attempt to intimidate the organiser, who the *Financial Review* has chosen not to name due to concerns of retribution.

Some union sources believe it may relate to a dispute with a disgruntled subcontractor while others say it may be fallout between the union and the industry following corruption claims in the Building Bad investigation [<https://www.afr.com/topic/building-bad-6gug>] by the *Financial Review* and other Nine-owned outlets. The organiser is understood to have been auditing the wages of subcontractor at the time.

A NSW Police spokesman said that Fire and Rescue NSW extinguished the fire “and no injuries were reported”. “Police have commenced an investigation into the incident.”

CFMEU administrator Mark Irving KC has been appointed to clean out the union, including by ridding connections to subcontractors and labour hire firms linked to organised crime figures.

Mr Irving said, “we are taking the matter very seriously and the administration has referred this crime to the NSW Police”.

“The administration will do everything in its power to ensure all lines of inquiry are explored by responsible authorities,” he said.

“All workers in the construction industry including CFMEU organisers, should be safe at work and no one should be exposed to criminal violence. Criminal figures in the construction industry must be held to account.”

In October last year, police warned Mr Irving of a death threat designed to undermine his efforts to clean out the industry.

The administrator and ousted CFMEU leaders are awaiting the outcome of a High Court challenge [<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/workplace/high-court-challenge-delays-cfmeu-corruption-case-20241216-p5kyn3>] against the administration laws, expected either late this month or next month.