

Answers by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union to written questions on notice by Senator McKenzie, received 14 February 2017.

- 1. The CFMEU has claimed that this amendment will cause chaos in the industry. Negotiating and making new collective agreements is not usually a chaotic process for most employers. The only risk of “chaos” arises when there is the threat of industrial action. The only people who can cause industrial action are unions. On this basis, isn’t it the case that any “chaos” in the industry will be caused by the CFMEU?**

This question is based on a series of entirely false ideological premises and a lack of understanding of industrial relations and the Fair Work Act 2009. It is therefore not possible to provide a response which would assist the committee in its deliberations.

- 2. What sort of “chaos” does the CFMEU propose to engage in? Would it be similar to the “chaos” outlined in a federal court decision handed down last week, which fined the CFMEU and its officials \$96,000 for an illegal blockage of the Port of Melbourne site organised by CFMEU officials? Is this the sort of chaos the CFMEU is planning?**

None. No. No.

- 3. Federal Court judge Justice White commented in a judgment last year that the union has an “appalling record” which “bespeaks an attitude by the CFMEU of ignoring, if not defying, the law and a willingness to contravene it as and when it chooses.” Why does the CFMEU continually seek to engage in unlawful tactics and repeatedly break the law. Isn’t it true that if the CFMEU chose to obey the law then there would not be a threat of “chaos” in the industry?**

No.