



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

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Details of Filing

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Important Information

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY REGISTRY

BETWEEN:

MICHAEL RAVBAR
First Plaintiff

WILLIAM LOWTH
Second Plaintiff

and

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
First Defendant

ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH
Second Defendant

MARK IRVING KC
Third Defendant

PLAINTIFFS' CHRONOLOGY

PART I FORM OF CHRONOLOGY

1. This chronology is in a form suitable for publication on the internet.

PART II CHRONOLOGY

DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
13 July 2024	Online and print news media outlets in Australia commence publishing articles alleging misconduct, corruption and criminal conduct by officers, delegates, employees and members of the Construction and General Division (C&G Division) of the CFMEU	SC [104] SCB1 at 153-154; Annexures 23-41 SCB3 at 1038-1181
29 July 2024	In an interview with Sarah Ferguson on ABC 7.30, the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (Senator the Hon Murray Watt) (the Minister) stated:	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 47 SCB3 at 1219-1222

Filed on behalf of the Plaintiffs by
Hall Payne Lawyers.

Date of this document: 21 October 2024
Telephone: (07) 3009 6010
Lawyer's email: daleb@hallpayne.com.au

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	<p>“I guess that's a question for the CFMEU, ultimately. But both in their statements to date and their past record, you wouldn't be very hopeful that the CFMEU would cooperate with this administration, and that's why both Tony Burke, as the former minister, and myself, are making clear that the government is prepared to pass legislation to ensure that this administration can progress. We want to make sure that we can remove any barriers that exist and that are put in the way of this process by the CFMEU, because I think all Australians want to see this matter dealt with.”</p>	
31 July 2024	<p>In an interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National, the Minister stated:</p> <p>“You know, we need to think about the members of this union. They work on incredibly dangerous work sites, long hours in many cases, they deserve a union that’s going to stand up for them, that is clean, that isn't distracted and infiltrated by bikies, and I'm afraid the government doesn't believe that the CFMEU can undertake that clean out on its own. That’s why we want that administration to proceed and we're working hard on that now.</p> <p>...</p> <p>I think many of the media reports speak for themselves. I mean no one can deny the apparent infiltration of the construction division of the union by organised crime and by bikies. It's there for everyone to see.</p> <p>... I think the disturbing aspect of the media reports has been that apparent infiltration by organised crime. ...</p> <p>This is about organised crime and bikies. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p>That's certainly the intention. I mean what we have said is that we will support any application that's made by the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission to put some of these branches into administration. If that application's opposed and there are barriers, if it's not resolved by the time Parliament returns then we will remove those barriers by government legislation.</p>	<p>SC [110] SCB1 156; Annexure 48 SCB3 at 1223-1227</p>

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	<p>So we're serious about this. People have had enough. It's got to change and if it takes Government legislation to do it that's what we'll do.</p> <p>... This union's activity by too many of its officials has gone too far and it's got to stop. And frankly I don't think the union can be relied on to reform itself without external intervention. That's why I remain fully committed to the work that Tony Burke and the Prime Minister commenced before I took on this portfolio, to put this union into administration, to clean out the bad officials that it's got and get a union up and running again."</p>	
2 August 2024	<p>The General Manager of the Fair Work Commission applied to the Federal Court of Australia under s 323 of the <i>Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i> (Cth) (FWRO Act) for declarations and orders, including approving a scheme in relation to the C&G Division of the CFMEU and appointing Mark Irving KC as administrator under the scheme.</p>	<p>SC [116] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 64 SCB3 at 1286-1340</p>
2 August 2024	<p>At a press conference in Brisbane, the Minister said:</p> <p>"... But also we've made clear that if they don't consent to this application and if it's not resolved by the time parliament returns, it's our intention to introduce parliament to enable the administration of this union to proceed swiftly and effectively. I've invested most of the day and night over the last three or four days since I took on this role in working with our department on that legislation to ensure that it's ready to go. That would be our intention.</p> <p>...</p> <p>That would certainly be our intention. So, as I said in my opening statement, I'm calling on the CFMEU to consent to this application so that</p>	<p>SC [110] SCB1 at 156;</p> <p>Annexure 49 SCB3 at 1228-1233</p>

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	<p>things can start changing within this union immediately. If the union decides to not consent to this application, then we will be ready with legislation to enable administration to proceed without any barriers being imposed and without the years of litigation that it would entail.</p> <p>...</p> <p>My intention very much would be to keep the focus of this legislation on the particular division of the CFMEU which has these allegations facing it – the Construction and General Division. I want to make it clear that this is not an attempt to go after unions generally. ... But what we have here is a rogue union that is not upholding the principles of unionism and is not putting its members' interests first. So, there would be no intention whatsoever to enable this legislation to apply more broadly either to other divisions of this union or to other unions.</p> <p>...</p> <p>... But, really, we're taking this step by step and what today is about is beginning a legal process to put this union or some of its branches into administration. But, as I've said, if it isn't resolved by the time parliament goes ahead, then legislation will be introduced ..."</p>	
8 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National, the Minister stated:</p> <p>"Really, that is now in the hands of the CFMEU, Patricia. I've made very clear, both in correspondence to the union and publicly, that unless if the union consents to the application that's been made to the court to put them into administration, then we will act next week and we will introduce legislation that would enable the administration to go ahead. These issues need to be dealt with. They need to be dealt with now and we're prepared to legislate if that's what it takes to have action."</p>	<p>SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 50 SCB3 at 1234</p>

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9 August 2024	<p>At a press conference in Brisbane, the Minister said:</p> <p>“It is clear that the CFMEU will not consent to that application any time soon, and for that reason the Albanese government will introduce a bill to deal with this situation when Parliament returns next week.</p> <p>...</p> <p>... But, really, the reason we are moving ahead with legislation next week is because it is absolutely clear from the CFMEU’s response that waiting for that application to find its way through the courts will take far too long given the seriousness of the issues that we are dealing with.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Well, I think anyone who has seen any of the media coverage of this recently sees that there are serious allegations of violence, thuggery, intimidation and, in some cases, criminality and organised crime across the country when it comes to the CFMEU. And that’s why we believe that we do need a wider approach that does pick up the Queensland and Northern Territory branch as well.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Well, as I say, we are still finalising the legislation. But we are looking at all branches of the CFMEU.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Well, I mean, you would be aware that there have been stories going around for some time about the beginning of infiltration of the CFMEU Queensland branch by bikies. There have been obviously more allegations find their way into the public sphere when it comes to Victoria and New South Wales. But even leaving aside that, you’ve only got to open your</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 51 SCB3 at 1238-1241

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	eyes and watch the media in Queensland to see that there have been allegations – strong allegations – of thuggery, bullying and intimidation here in Queensland. That has got to stop.”	
11 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Andrew Clennel on Sky News Sunday Agenda, the Minister said:</p> <p>“You may have seen the Fair Work Commission General Manager filed an application in the court seeking the power to put the CFMEU into administration. I was very clear with the union, publicly and privately through correspondence, that if they didn't consent to that application by a couple of days ago, then we would be moving with legislation. They haven't consented, and that's what we're now doing. I think everyone's had a gutful of what they've been seeing from certain parts of this union for a long time. There is no place for criminality, corruption, thuggery, bullying, intimidation in any workplace in Australia, and if it takes legislation to fix that, that's what we're prepared to.</p> <p>...</p> <p>As I say, we have given the union ample opportunity to consent to the application, to recognise that the problems go far deeper than what they've admitted so far. They've chosen not to consent to that application, and frankly, we're not prepared to wait for this to wend its way through the courts with multiple legal challenges, and I don't think Australians want us to wait for that either. You know, I recognise that there are concerns within the union. This is a very targeted approach directed at one division of one union. It won't apply to other unions; it won't even apply to other divisions of the CFMEU. But we need to get to the core of where these problems lie, and that's deep within the construction division of the union along with the industry more broadly.”</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 52 SCB3 at 1242-1247

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12 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Sarah Ferguson on ABC 7.30, the Minister said:</p> <p>“Yes it did, Sarah. You might recall that I've made very clear now - really since the time I was sworn into this role a couple of weeks ago, that if these matters weren't resolved by the time we returned to Parliament, we would be introducing legislation. And that's exactly what we've done today.</p> <p>I publicly called on the CFMEU leadership to consent to the application made to the court to put them into administration. They still haven't consented. It's clear that they're not going to. And we're not prepared to wait any longer to clean up this union and return it to focusing on the best interests of its members.</p> <p>... I think it's reasonable to expect, with the widespread infiltration of the union and the industry by organised crime and bikie figures, I think it's reasonable to assume that there may well be more. But this is exactly one of the things that we need to be looked at. The police, both Federal and State, are currently investigating a range of allegations. My predecessor, Tony Burke, referred a number of those allegations to police. And I expect that that will yield more results as well.</p> <p>...</p> <p>... I think even the media reporting that we've seen to date has demonstrated that in some branches of the CFMEU construction division there is active involvement of bikies and organised crime figures in the activities of the union and in the construction industry more broadly.”</p>	<p>SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 53 SCB3 at 1248-1251</p>
12 August 2024	<p>The Minister introduced the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment</p>	<p>SC [90], [90.1] SCB1 at 149;</p>

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	(Administration) Bill 2024 (Cth) (the Bill) into the Senate.	Annexure 14 SCB3 at 962-964
12 August 2024	<p>In the Minister's Second Reading Speech to the Senate, the Minister said:</p> <p>"Since July 2024, serious allegations have come to light about the conduct of some members and associates of the Construction and General Division of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union.</p> <p>The Australian government takes these allegations seriously. There is no place for criminality or corruption in the construction industry, and bullying, thuggery and intimidation are unacceptable in any workplace.</p> <p>On 2 August 2024, the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission applied to the Federal Court of Australia to have an independent administrator appointed to the Construction and General Division and the Victoria-Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland-Northern Territory, and South Australian divisional branches.</p> <p>I intervened to support the application on behalf of the government.</p> <p>For some time now, the government has made clear that, if the matter was not resolved before parliament returned, we would introduce legislation to facilitate administration, if it was determined to be in the public interest.</p> <p>It is the government's firm view that enabling administration, not deregistration, is the strongest action to take in these circumstances.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The allegations about the behaviour of some Construction and General Division members and associates are serious, and unlawful behaviour in any workplace is unacceptable. This bill provides an effective mechanism to</p>	<p>SC [90], [90.1]</p> <p>SCB1 at 149;</p> <p>Annexure 14</p> <p>SCB3 at 963-964</p>

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	enable the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU to be placed into administration if it is determined to be in the public interest. The government will continue to support strong action to address these issues.”	
12 August 2024	<p>In an interview on Sky News with Chris Kenny, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash (member of the Liberal Party of Australia and Deputy Leader of the Opposition) said:</p> <p>“[Labor] are misleading the Australian people to say that the legislation in its current form will clean up the CFMEU.</p> <p>The legislation is there for all to see, you could drive a truck through it in fact I honestly thought it was drafted by the CFMEU, for the CFMEU.</p> <p>So I have made it very clear, there are 20 amendments that I have worked through with stakeholders that if the government is prepared to accept and implement all of those amendments we can move this matter forward.</p> <p>This is now a test for Prime Minister Albanese is he dinkum about cleaning up the mess his government created or are we just going to get more weasel words?</p> <p>... These are reasonable amendments and if the Labor Party is not prepared to accept why there should be a ban on political donations, why there should not be an auditor appointed to follow the money, why there should not be a fit an proper person test, why the administration should not be for a minimum amount of time then it is for Mr Albanese as Prime Minister to justify that to the Australian people.”</p>	SC [112] SCB1 at 157; Annexure 60 SCB3 at 1276
13-19 August 2024.	The Bill was debated in the Senate.	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexures 15-18

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		SCB3 at 965-1010
13 August 2024	<p>The Liberal Party of Australia released a media release titled “Amendments needed to fix Albanese’s weak CFMEU legislation” which stated:</p> <p>“...</p> <p>Not surprisingly, the Bill is silent on the Labor Party receiving political donations from the CFMEU, despite the clear conflict this presents.</p> <p>...</p> <p>‘In the short time we have had the Bill, we have identified a number of significant issues that need to be addressed,’ Senator Cash said.</p> <p>Our amendments will therefore include:</p> <p>...</p> <p>5. That political donations, political campaigns and advertising by the CFMEU should be explicitly banned during the period of Administration.”</p>	SC [111] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 59 SCB3 at 1273-1275
13 August 2024	<p>In a doorstep interview at Parliament House, the Minister said:</p> <p>“It’s incredibly frustrating to see more delay tactics and political games from an Opposition and the Greens who’ve been talking about needing to clean up work sites, inject better culture and now have the opportunity to do so. It is really important that we get this legislation passed. I think all Australians are really disturbed by the constant revelations that keep on coming out, including more today about thuggery, bullying, intimidation and in its worst examples, criminality and corruption that unfortunately have infiltrated this union. We need legislation to reform this union and ensure</p>	SC [110] SCB at 156; Annexure 54 SCB3 at 1252-1254.

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	that it gets back to focusing on its members interests rather than some of the activity that's been going on?"	
13 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Lisa Millar on ABC News Breakfast, the Minister said:</p> <p>“You will have seen over the last couple of weeks, I did give the union a deadline to consent to an application currently before the courts to have an administrator appointed. They haven't yet consented, and I always indicated that if they didn't consent, we'd be moving ahead with legislation.”</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 55 SCB3 at 1255-1257
13 August 2024	<p>In an address to AI Group in Canberra, the Minister said:</p> <p>“I publicly called on the CFMEU leadership to consent to the application made to the court to put them into administration. They still haven't consented. It's clear that they're not going to. And we're not prepared to wait any longer to clean up this union and return it to focusing on the best interests of its members.</p> <p>We need legislation to reform this union and ensure that it gets back to focusing on its members interests rather than some of the activity that's been going on. Today I lodged a motion in the Senate, to be debated tomorrow, that seeks to bring our legislation to a vote on Thursday. The time for delay and political games is over. And I'd ask for your support in calling for the Coalition and crossbench to step up and join us in taking action.”</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 56 SCB3 at 1258-1263
14 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Matthew Canavan (member of the National Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“There are also some other things that we should clearly do. After everything that we know now, why doesn't this bill ban the CFMEU from</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 971

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	making political donations? That seems to make some sense, and it raises questions if the government doesn't want to do it. Why don't they want to do that? They are not going to give the money back, apparently. Again, if they really want to be trusted, if they really want to convince the Australian people that the very people who were the closest to the CFMEU can now be trusted to rein in this fox and protect the hens, give the money back. Give back the \$6.2 million that the Labor Party received from the CFMEU since Anthony Albanese became leader. It's tainted money now, clearly. It's been tainted by crime. Give it back.”	
14 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Steve Austin on ABC Brisbane Mornings, the Minister said:</p> <p>“Yeah so the way these laws have been structured – and I should say it’s in response to a court application that the Fair Work Commission General Manager made a bit over a week ago that so far has not been consented to by the CFMEU. I said at the time that if they didn’t consent by the time Parliament returned we would introduce laws, and these laws would give me as the minister the power to decide if it’s in the public interest to appoint an administrator to the whole construction division of the CFMEU.”</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 156; Annexure 57 SCB3 at 1264
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Linda Reynolds (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“In relation to this legislation, the Albanese government is not telling the truth when it says that this legislation will clean up the scandal plagued construction sector. There are more holes in this legislation than you'd probably see in a piece of swiss cheese. It rather conveniently provides the minister, the CFMEU's chief cheerleader, with far too much power and discretion, and, with the stroke of a pen, their biggest cheerleader can end the administration early. For example—heaven forbid—if Labor</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 975

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	<p>were re-elected, they could end the administration the day after the election. Not surprisingly, the bill doesn't talk about any links to the \$6.2 million of donations to the Labor Party and future donations to the Labor Party by the CFMEU. In fact, this bill is so weak it could well have been written by John Setka himself, and maybe it was. ... But this legislation also must, by our amendment, make sure that political donations cannot be made by the CFMEU and that they cannot run political campaigns on behalf of any political party here in this country.”</p>	
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Wendy Askew (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“It does nothing to allay the concerns of whistleblowers who have alleged criminal misconduct and the misappropriation of funds by members of the CFMEU; nor does it address the serious issues of donations to the Labor Party by this union.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Not surprisingly, the Bill is silent on the Labor Party receiving political donations from the CFMEU, despite the clear conflict this presents.</p> <p>...</p> <p>In relation to this temporary bill before us, Senator Cash's media release outlines 20 key amendments that the coalition have proposed. They are crucial to the integrity of this bill, and, for clarity, I'll go through them. ... Political donations, political campaigns and advertising by the CFMEU should be explicitly banned during the period of administration. ...”</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 979-980</p>
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Jonathon Duniam (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB 1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 983</p>

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	<p>“The fact that political donations and campaigns and advertising by the CFMEU are not explicitly banned during the period of administration is also of concern. The fact that it is silent on that, that we would allow this to continue to occur despite what concerns have been raised—again, not just by coalition politicians but many sectors, many quarters of our community, including law courts—is just unbelievable.”</p>	
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Jane Hume (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“Critically, this legislation must ensure that the CFMEU cannot make political donations or run political campaigns while it's in administration. The government has known our concerns about this bill for around 48 hours, and it could have passed this bill in minutes. So when Minister Watt says, 'There is no time to delay,' that is on him. He could come in here right now and pass this bill immediately. But he cannot do it until those positions are strengthened, until the bill that we adopt is one that is actually going to have some effect.</p> <p>If they don't adopted the changes, it's proof of the fact that the Labor Party not only are complicit in this corruption of one of the biggest and most powerful unions in the country but continue to enable the rot that has cost all Australians so dearly.”</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 988</p>
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Maria Kovacic (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“Another glaring issue with the legislation as it stands is with the matter of political donations during the administration period. It's one thing for a democratic trade union to make donations</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 990-991</p>

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	<p>to a political party. The reality is that that is just a function of our democracy. Whilst, of course, there is a conflict in terms of Labor governments and their IR and workplace policies, it is a democratically elected body making the choice to make a donation. However, under this legislation, the minister sets the terms of the administration of the CFMEU, which is allowed to make donations to the party of the minister that sets their administration terms. Let's have a think about that. The organisation that is under administration as a result of criminal conduct can make donations to the party of the minister setting the terms of the administration. I don't think that passes any test, pub or otherwise. It is an undeniable conflict. It cannot be allowed to occur under this legislation. Whilst the CFMEU is in administration, it cannot be allowed to make political donation. As I noted before, political donations, political campaigns, and advertising by the CFMEU should be explicitly banned during the period of administration. That is an entirely reasonable request and requirement, and it should have been in this legislation to begin with.”</p>	
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Simon Birmingham (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“So accept Senator Cash's amendment to stop donations and this bill could pass. ...</p> <p>... And you're well and truly dodging it when it comes to actually ruling out donations and the money. ...”</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 992
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, the Minister said:</p> <p>“The second matter that the opposition says is still unresolved is the issue of political donations. You know what? We have already agreed in a letter to Senator Cash ... We've already agreed to Senator Cash that the scheme of administration that would be applied under this legislation would ban donations to any</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 993

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	political party for the period of the administration. We've already agreed to that. It's in a letter to Senator Cash saying it will be in the scheme of administration, which is part of the legislation. But that's not good enough for Senator Cash, because she wants to run political games.”	
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Michaelia Cash (the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate and member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“Why won't they legislate to ban the taking of political donations? That is a question the media should be asking. They say: 'Trust us. We won't take them.' Guess what? I don't trust you. The construction industry doesn't trust you, and the Australian people do not trust you. Legislate the ban on political donations.”</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 996
15 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator Penny Wong (member of the Australian Labor Party) said:</p> <p>“... the government has indicated we would ban donations to political parties. That's the first point.”</p>	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 998
15 August 2024	The Senate did not agree to the Bill.	SC [90.2] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 16 SCB3 at 993
15 August 2024	<p>In an interview with Patricia Karvelas on ABC Radio National, the Minister said:</p> <p>“...we're open to banning branches of the CFMEU from making donations to political parties for the period of the administration”</p>	SC [110] SCB1 at 159; Annexure 58 SCB3 at 1271
16 August 2024	One Nation posted an article to its website entitled “One Nation Puts Blowtorch to Toxic CFMEU” which said “Senator Pauline Hanson called for a ban on political donations by	SC [113] SCB 1 at 157; Annexure 61 SCB4 at 1277-1278

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	unions or their affiliates as a simple and effective solution to curb CFMEU power, similar to the ban on property developers, gambling and tobacco interests.	
19 August 2024	<p>The third defendant (the Administrator) wrote a letter to the Minister stating:</p> <p>“The union will not engage in party politics during the administration: donations, positions at political party conferences; promotion of particular candidates</p> <p>...</p> <p>I can advise you that I intend, should I be appointed as Administrator, to vary the rules of the Construction and General Division of the CFMEU to prohibit the making of party-political donations or the funding of party-political campaigns.”</p>	<p>SC [114] SCB1 at 157;</p> <p>Annexure 62 SCB3 at 1279</p>
19 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator David Fawcett (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“The topic that has absorbed the chamber for all of this morning is this: if we genuinely believe that the actions of a union under its current leadership, even though Mr Setka has left, are illegal and toxic and not in the best interest of Australia then why would parties either not return funding or commit to not taking funding, and that includes both the Greens and the government—I can almost guarantee they've never donated to the coalition—into the future?</p> <p>I cannot support this legislation unamended by the amendments proposed by the coalition.”</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 157;</p> <p>Annexure 18 SCB3 at 1000</p>
19 August 2024	<p>In the second reading debate in the Senate, Senator James Paterson (member of the Liberal Party of Australia) said:</p> <p>“What we know is that some of the suggestions put forward by Senator Cash and the coalition</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 157;</p> <p>Annexure 18 SCB3 at 1004</p>

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	<p>have been agreed to in principle by the government, but we're waiting to see the drafting to make sure that they give effect to the intention of the coalition in putting forward these amendments. These are very reasonable amendments. These amendments make sure that the bill achieves its intended purpose of fixing up the squalid, corrupt and criminal CFMEU ... They include commitments to ensuring political donations and political expenditure from the CFMEU are banned during the period of the administration."</p>	
19 August 2024	<p>At or around 3:20pm during a press conference called shortly after the end of Question Time for the House of Representatives, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash (member of the Liberal Party of Australia and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Senate) said:</p> <p>"I have been provided with a copy of a letter from the administrator to the Minister, Murray Watt, which clearly sets out the administrator's goals, and one of those very clear goals is to ensure that the CFMEU, in administration is not to incur any form of political campaign expenditure or make party political donations and I am prepared to accept that."</p>	<p>SC [115] SCB1 at 157; Annexure 63 SCB3 at 1282</p>
19 August 2024	<p>In the Senate, Senator Hanson (Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation) quoted from a news article the following statement:</p> <p>"The original bill did not ban the administrator from making political donations—an important measure for the ALP, because any such donations would presumably go to the ALP (and maybe the Greens) and be an important source of funding in the next election. The Coalition stood firm and donations were banned..."</p> <p>and then stated:</p> <p>"One Nation supports that as well".</p>	<p>SC [90.2] SCB1 at 157; Annexure 18 SCB3 at 1008</p>

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19 August 2024	The Senate agreed to the Bill.	SC [90.3] SCB1 at 149
20 August 2024	The Bill was debated in the House of Representatives.	SC [90] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 19 SCB3 at 1011-1016
20 August 2024	In the second reading debate in the House of Representatives, the Hon Anne Webster, Member for Mallee (member of The Nationals) said: “The administrator has also undertaken to ensure that the CFMEU will not engage in party politics during the administration, including making donations, having positions at party conferences or promoting candidates. We on the coalition side have also secured powers to ban the CFMEU officials for life—not five years, as Labor had proposed—better ensuring John Setka is held accountable for his actions.”	SC [90] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 19 SCB3 at 1010
20 August 2024	In the second reading debate in the House of Representatives, the Hon Paul Fletcher, Member for Bradfield (member of the Liberal Party of Australia and Manager of Opposition Business) said: “[T]he first draft of this bill could have been co-authored by John Setka ... It was so weak you could drive a truck through it ... But, thanks to the extraordinary and assiduous work of Senator Cash, shadow minister for employment and workplace relations, this bill has been significantly strengthened. We made it clear that we would only support it if there were amendments made in a whole range of ways. ...	SC [90] SCB1 at 149; Annexure 19 SCB3 at 1015

DATE	EVENT	REFERENCE
	A very important point is that, while the CFMEU is in administration, it would be entirely inappropriate and improper for the CFMEU to continue to shovel millions of dollars towards the Labor Party in political donations. I'm pleased to say that, thanks to the assiduous work of Senator Cash, the administrator has now set out in writing the guiding principles and goals he determined before accepting the role. One of those is as follows: 'The union will not engage in party politics during the administration: donations, positions at political party conferences, and promotions of particular candidates.'"	
20 August 2024	The House of Representatives passed the Bill.	SC [92] SCB1 at 149
22 August 2024	The Bill received Royal Assent.	SC [93] SCB1 at 149
23 August 2024	<i>The Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment (Administration) Act 2024</i> (Cth) (Administration Act) commenced	SC [94] SCB1 at 149
23 August 2024, 12.21am	The Minister authorised the second defendant (Attorney-General) to act on his behalf in the exercise of his powers under s 323B of the FWRO Act.	SC [1] SCB1 at 123
23 August 2024, 8.12am	The Attorney-General determined a scheme for the administration of the C&G Division (Scheme) appointing the third defendant as the administrator.	SC [2] SCB1 at 123

Dated: 21 October 2024



Bret Walker
5th Floor St James' Hall
02 8257 2527

Craig Lenehan
5th Floor St James' Hall
02 8257 2530

Christopher Tran
Banco Chambers
02 9376 0686

Naomi Wootton
Sixth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers
02 8915 2610

