

Builders blacklist CFMEU big sums

Plan to cut access to worksites

STEPHEN DRILL

MORE than a dozen militant union chiefs have been slapped with building site bans in a dramatic escalation of hostilities in Victoria's \$39 billion construction industry.

Mugsbats of officials, including CFMEU state secretary John Setka and his chief lieutenants, will be sent to building site managers.

The Master Builders Association of Victoria, which represents 7500 building companies, has issued the picture gallery, saying the unionists' right-of-entry permits issued under federal law had lapsed.

MBAV industrial relations general manager Lawrie Cross told the *Herald Sun* that the list and photographs would be new tools in the fight against unlawful entry.

"Project managers on sites can use this to identify those officials who do not have permits," he said.

The Federal Government launched a widespread royal commission into corruption and bribery in the building industry this week.

The \$100 million inquiry is expected to focus on unlawful entry to building sites and standover tactics.

Federal Employment Minister Eric Abetz supported the MBAV's move, saying that officials walking on to sites without permits was a "perennial problem in Victoria".

The list of officials from the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union who



DEREK CHRISTOPHER
VICE-PRESIDENT



SHAUN REARDON
ASSISTANT SECRETARY



JOHN SETKA
SECRETARY



NOEL WASHINGTON
SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT



RALPH EDWARDS
PRESIDENT

have no valid right-of-entry permits includes its entire leadership.

Mr Setka, assistant secretary Shaun Reardon and Elias Spemovasilis, president Ralph Edwards and vice-president Noel Washington and Derek Christopher top the list.

There are 13 banned CFMEU workers on the list, including organisers Mick Powell and Paul Sullivan.

Union officials are supposed to provide 24 hours' notice for entry for industrial relations disputes but can go on site immediately if they

identify a safety concern. But builders complain the right of entry is abused and officials come on to sites to go on "fishing expeditions", which leads to penalties for late jobs.

The *Herald Sun* understands some officials allow their right-of-entry permits to

lapse to make it more difficult to have them removed.

Building company bosses then only have the option of calling police to have officials removed for trespassing.

Mr Setka has convictions for trespass dating back to 1987. stephen.drill@news.com.au

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