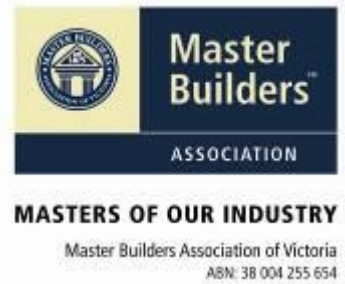


media release



31/08/12

Time to end the damage to Melbourne's reputation

The CFMEU blockade at the Emporium construction site is hurting Melbourne's reputation as an attractive place to invest, the Master Builders said today.

"Melbourne's standing as a city worthy of business investment is being trashed by this illegal and reckless blockade," said Deputy Executive Director, Radley de Silva.

"This week's images of CFMEU protesters clashing with police have drawn interstate and international attention, threatening our city's ability to attract investment and generate jobs.

"It's time for everyone involved in this illegal protest to put down the banners and pick up their tools."

Negotiations last night between Grocon and the CFMEU with Fair Work Australia did not produce an end to the union's blockade, which ignores the decisions handed down by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

"It is completely unacceptable that the CFEMU says it is willing to negotiate while it persists in deliberately and wilfully ignoring the Supreme Court's orders," said Mr de Silva.

"Offering a two-week cessation of illegal activity isn't a concession.

"The union's reckless actions are costing our industry and our economy hundreds of thousands of dollars every day, with works stopped on a number of construction sites across Melbourne."

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