

6/12/12

Union disputes at an eight year high in construction

New figures released today highlight the surge of union-led industrial action in the nation's construction industry.

Days lost to industrial disputes in construction reached an eight year high, with 62.7 days lost per 1000 employees in the September quarter.

"Today's figures confirm our industry's worst fears that rampant union activity is rapidly escalating and will only get worse," said Master Builders Executive Director Brian Welch.

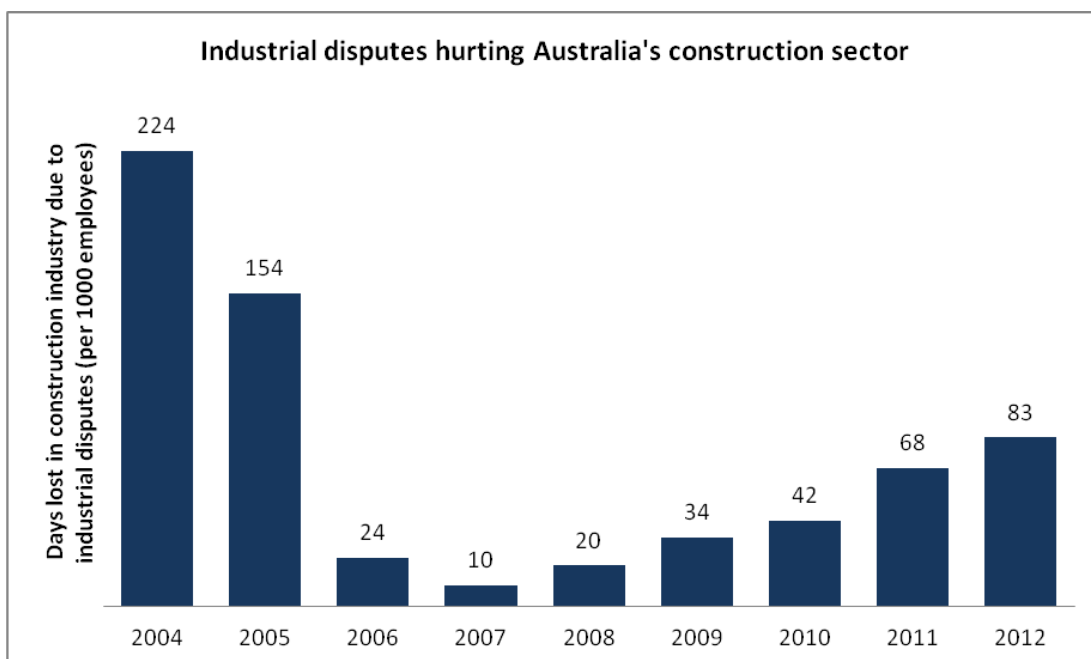
"Reckless union action hurts homebuyers by driving up the costs of new medium and high density housing.

"This economic vandalism also hurts businesses looking to build new offices or workplaces that will create new jobs in a slowing economy.

"Many Victorians saw the ugly face of union antics at the recent Emporium blockade in Melbourne, but these statistics highlight a much deeper underlying problem."

The September quarter figures were five times higher than the previous quarter and more than ten times greater than the same time last year.

"How much worse does it need to get before the Federal Government steps up to the plate and acknowledges there is a massive problem here that needs to be solved?" asked Mr Welch.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 6321.0.55.001
Figures for 2012 only include the first three quarters

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“Our community should not be burdened by unions willing to ignore the law and our courts.

“The white flag was raised to the unions the day the Federal Government announced it would water down the powers of the Australian Building and Construction Commission.

“We need industry-specific laws to tackle escalating union behaviour and we need them now.”

FAST FACTS

- 62.7 days lost per 1000 employees in construction in the September 2012 quarter
- Five times higher than June 2012 quarter (12.1 days)
- Ten times higher than September 2011 quarter (6.5 days)
- Highest number of days lost since September 2004 quarter (71.1 days)

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