

14/3/13

Seven-year high for industrial disputes in construction

Industrial disputes continue to plague the construction industry, with the number of working days lost reaching a seven-year high.

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show there were 85 days lost per 1000 employees in 2012 throughout the sector, a rise of 25 per cent on the previous year.

“The productivity of our industry is being hurt by rampant union action like what was seen at Melbourne’s Emporium construction site and the Little Creatures brewery site in Geelong,” said Industrial Relations Manager, Lawrie Cross.

“Under Federal Labor’s watch, the number of working days lost in our industry has exploded eight fold.

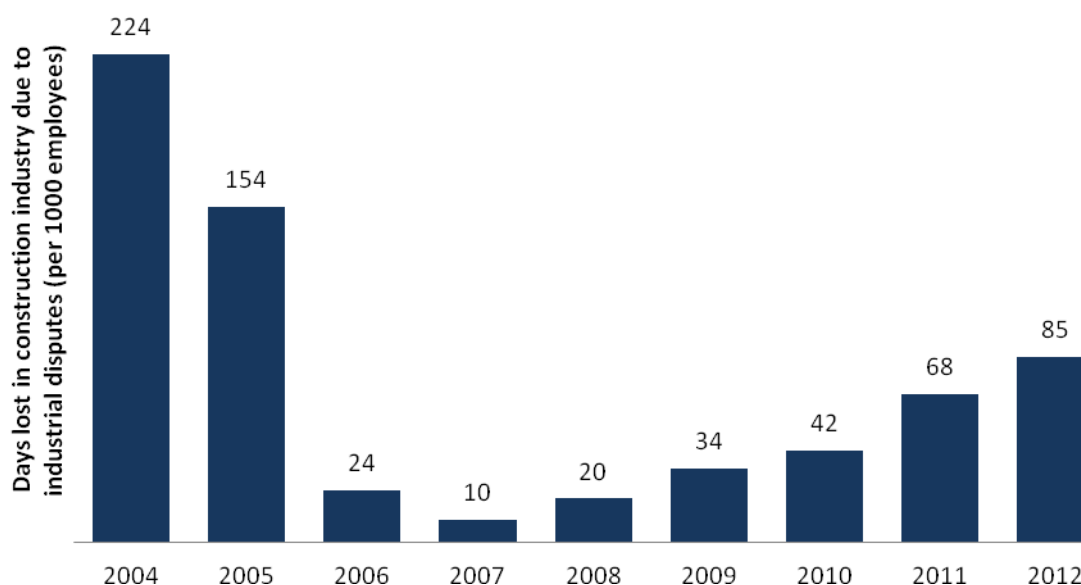
“Reforms to our industrial relations laws have opened the floodgate for construction unions to revert to their old playbook tactics of fear and intimidation.

“Days lost to industrial disputes in our industry are now at their highest point since 2005, but the Federal Government has vacated the field in holding unions to account.

“Losing valuable working days costs our industry millions of dollars and can cause lengthy delays and cost blowout to many construction projects.

“Our national economy suffers while the Federal Government bows to their union mates for campaign donations.”

Industrial disputes hurting Australia's construction sector



Source: ABS 6321.0.55.001

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Master Builders reiterated calls to reform the Fair Work regime and re-introduce an industry-specific watchdog to deal with the rise in union disruptions.

“If it is so easy to break the law, then surely our legal framework needs to be strengthened?” asked Mr Cross.

“The Prime Minister promised our industry would have a ‘strong cop on the beat’ but instead we have a toothless system that raised a white flag to union leaders so they can regularly act outside the law.”

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