

stories. It will suffice to say that I was shown and told of evidence of explicit threats made by dangerous men, some with convictions for violence.

What has the CFMEU cost the Victorian taxpayer?

28. ~~This assessment is obviously only rough—a proper assessment would require time, research, and the skills of an economist. What follows is only a guide, but it is based upon the opinions of highly qualified stakeholders.~~
29. ~~The Government says the cost of the Big Build will be in the order of \$100 billion. Several industry experts were asked to express, as a percentage, their opinion about the additional cost incurred by the crime and corruption generated by the CFMEU. They had a concrete basis for formulating an opinion—they were accustomed to pricing civil engineering jobs before the CFMEU entered that field and knew how much higher prices became after the CFMEU became involved on the Big Build.~~
30. ~~So even if this is a crude estimate, it has a reasonable starting point.~~
31. ~~At one end, an experienced person estimated the actions of the CFMEU had increased costs by 30%. Most said it would be by between 15% and 20%. None said it would be less than 10%.~~
32. ~~It is a very rough estimate, but 15% does not seem unreasonable; it is probably conservative.~~
33. ~~From there the maths is simple—the leadership of the CFMEU has cost the Victorian taxpayer something like \$15 billion.~~
34. ~~There is another point to this—as will be seen, much of that \$15 billion has been poured directly into the hands of criminals and organised crime gangs.~~

What does the future hold?

35. The matters addressed in this report are now matters of history. Making a record of that kind is both necessary and helpful. It is important to record what went wrong as part of identifying the path for the process of correction. It will also help prevent it from happening again.