

Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry

WITNESS STATEMENT OF SKY LEWIS

I, Sky Lewis, affirm:

Background

1. I make this statement in response to a notice issued by Stuart John Wood AM KC, the Commissioner appointed pursuant to the *Commissions of Inquiry Order (No. 2) 2025*.
2. I am in my early 20s and have worked in the construction industry for approximately three years.
3. I have worked for Matrix Unlimited (**Matrix**) in the role of Electrical Safety Recipient for most of that time. My responsibilities in this role include observing machinery near overhead powerlines and implementing hard controls to ensure compliance with the three-metre safety exclusion zone around live overhead powerlines.
4. Before this, I worked as a traffic controller with JTS Construction from around July until October 2023. That was my first role in the construction industry.
5. I have worked on various sites with Matrix as part of the Cross River Rail Project (**Project**) including Dutton Park, Rocklea, Salisbury and Yeerongpilly.
6. I enjoy my work and all I want to do is go to work in a safe and friendly environment and do the best job I can.

30 April 2024 – Dutton Park

7. On 30 April 2024, I attended work at the Dutton Park site as usual and parked my car at the top of a hill in a car park. To get into site, you had to walk up the hill, cross the bridge and then go down the hill to where the prestart was held. There was a narrow pathway about 2.5 metres wide with ATF fencing on each side.
8. After I got out of my car and began to walk down to the site, I saw three or four men at the top of the hill, and two men down the bottom of the hill. They were blocking the entry into the site. They were wearing black jumpers with CFMEU logos on them and were holding CFMEU flags.
9. The two men at the bottom of the hill blocking the entry were very large, solid men and had CFMEU caps on their heads and balaclavas covering their face. They were physically intimidating.
10. The three or four men at the top of the hill were yelling out "*Don't cross the picket line to support your friends and family*" and "*If you cross, you're a pig.*" I was alone, I couldn't see any other workers near me.
11. I felt extremely unsafe and froze because I did not know what to do. I chose not to go down the hill because I was too afraid of the men in the balaclavas, and I didn't know what they would do to me if I crossed the picket line. I was on my own and I didn't want to risk attempting to cross the picket line since nobody else was there.

12. I texted my boss at the time, Mase, to see where other people were and if other people were coming, as I didn't know what to do.
13. Eventually, a colleague from Matrix, Soane Tuakalau, came to assist me and escorted me through a back entrance to the site.

1 May 2024 – Dutton Park

14. The next day (1 May 2024), I returned to the Dutton Park site. I wasn't sure if the picket line would still be going, but I felt scared driving to work that day. I was quite shaken up from the incident the day before.
15. I received a text message telling me to go to the CPB Contractors Pty Ltd (CPB) office across the road. When I got to the CPB office, there were workers from Matrix, CPB, and Queensland Rail (QR) gathered there. They were trying to work out a plan for how we could get into the site because apparently there was a large group of about 30 CFMEU members blocking the site entrance.
16. The male workers in the group wanted us to all walk together in a pack to the site to try and get through. There were three female workers in the group – including me. One of the girls worked at QR, and the other worked at Matrix with me. We were all in our late teens or early 20s at the time.
17. The other two girls and I didn't agree with the boys' plan. We thought it would draw too much attention to us and would aggravate the CFMEU members. However, we were outvoted, and it was decided that we would all walk to the site together in a group, with the girls at the back.
18. As we approached the hill to go down towards the site, about 20 or 30 CFMEU men started running up the hill towards us. During this confrontation, I was grabbed on the arm aggressively by a CFMEU man who then shoulder-shoved me backwards. As I mentioned above, the pathway was narrow, about 2.5 metres wide, and I felt trapped and terrified.
19. Some of the guys in our group got through the gate before the CFMEU workers arrived and then the CFMEU workers started linking arms to form a human barrier and blocked entry. I felt really scared.
20. The guys in our group were trying to call us girls down to get through the gate, but we felt too scared and started to back away down the hill.
21. At this time, I took a video on my phone quickly as I wanted to record what was happening, so that we would have proof in case something bad happened.
22. The situation quickly escalated into physical violence. One of the workers from our group, Fou Ah Lam, came back out of the entry gate and broke through the CFMEU line to assist us. He was immediately shoved and slammed down to the ground by CFMEU members. They attempted to remove spray cans from his pockets during the altercation.
23. Another colleague, Raoul Van Aardt of CPB, ran out through the gate and stood outside the gate, between the fencing. He was trying to stop the workers from arguing and fighting. The CFMEU workers had linked arms and were blocking people from getting in and out of the site. Mr Van Aardt eventually came over to us girls. We were standing back. He stood between us and the CFMEU men and escorted us back up

the hill. Without Mr Van Aardt's intervention, I do not believe I could have passed through the area safely. I wouldn't have gone through without him as it was too frightening.

24. I was crying and extremely distressed. I didn't know what the CFMEU men were going to do to us. I felt scared and confused as to why CFMEU members were preventing women from entering the site. I simply wanted to work and did not want to engage in conflict. I found the entire event extremely scary and upsetting, to see my workmates who were like my family abused by the CFMEU.
25. During the fighting, the CFMEU members knocked down the ATF fencing, and the incident escalated into what I would describe as a riot.
26. We were escorted into the kitchen area inside the CPB office after the incident and we stayed there for about an hour to an hour and a half. I was scared and wanted to wait for things to calm down before leaving the site.
27. Following the incident, I was escorted to my car by my supervisor. They drove us all to our cars and dropped us off because CFMEU members were reportedly tracking workers as they left the site. I knew this because everyone had their radios on during the incident and when I was sitting in the CPB office someone said over the radio *"They're following the workers"*.
28. We were told not to come to work the following day. I felt thankful for this because I felt very scared to go to work. For weeks afterwards, I felt anxious and unsafe attending work. I cried to my parents and relied on support from my workmates. The event was also reported in the media, and I saw it on the news. I didn't want to watch the news reports.
29. We went back to work about two days after the incident. That day, I made sure to wait for other colleagues to arrive before I got out of my car and walked down towards the site. I was relieved that the CFMEU had left, and I didn't see them at site anymore.
30. At work that day, I saw ripped shirts and injuries on some of the workers who had been involved in the altercation.
31. I kept the video recording I took of the incident, which is **Annexure SL-1** to this statement.
32. **Annexures SL-2** and **SL-3** are two videos someone else took that I saw on social media and saved.
33. In the videos, you can see the shoving and pushing by the CFMEU members and them swearing and saying *"Hold the fucking line boys."* The video I took was before things really escalated and turned violent, but you can see things escalating.

Other Experiences

34. Prior to the incident described above, I had experienced CFMEU representatives attending sites for toolbox talks. These interactions often felt very intimidating to me, rather than constructive. I never felt like they were there to be welcoming and helpful; they were there to cause trouble and intimidate us.

35. I recall on one occasion, CFMEU representatives come up to me at site and asked me blunt questions, such as *"Who is the first aider here?"* in a manner that felt like an attempt to catch me out.
36. On another occasion, I was having a break in my car. It was in the shade, I had water, and I was perfectly happy. CFMEU representatives raised a complaint about it and made my supervisor set up a table, water station and gazebo for shade. I told my supervisor I didn't need any of that, and said don't feel pressured to get it for me, but they said they had to because it's the CFMEU and they won't drop it until its there.
37. On another occasion, CFMEU representatives attended a pre-start meeting I attended at the Yeerongpilly site following the death of a worker named Daniel. I had met Daniel a few times and his passing was extremely sad for our community. We all knew Daniel had passed but didn't know any details.
38. During our pre-start meeting, the CFMEU representatives started providing very graphic details about Daniel's death, which I found offensive and distressing. For example, they told us that Daniel had *"died naked in his car."* The CFMEU representatives also got Daniel's name and age wrong during their talk. They told us they were there to *"honour"* Daniel, but it felt like they were there to use Daniel's death to advance their own agenda.
39. A lot of Daniel's close friends were there during that meeting, and one started to cry as the CFMEU representatives were talking. We all walked out of the meeting in the middle of their talk because we found the whole thing offensive. I was annoyed and mad. They were acting like they knew Daniel, but they didn't.
40. I have never been a member of any union and did not feel pressured to join one. However, CFMEU representatives frequently distributed stickers and flyers and made comments to me such as *"You'll join one day soon."*
41. Several weeks after the Dutton Park incident, I was out socially with a friend following a dirt bike event. We went to a pub in the city. While at the pub, I was approached by a man who identified himself as working on the Project and as a CFMEU member. I don't know if he recognised me from site, but he came up to me. I had no idea who he was.
42. He initiated the conversation by saying, *"Hey beautiful,"* which I found inappropriate and told him not to call me that.
43. He then began talking about the benefits of working under CFMEU arrangements, stating words to the effect of: *"You only have to work eight hours but get paid for twelve."* I said that I didn't want to have this conversation with him and he said I had *"attitude"* and became visibly annoyed.
44. I told him how upset I was about the way CFMEU members had manhandled me and my friends at the Dutton Park site. His response was dismissive and concerning to me. He said words to the effect of: *"Well, you wouldn't get manhandled on a CFMEU site."*
45. This encounter left me feeling uncomfortable and creeped out. I tried to exit the conversation as quickly as possible without inflaming the situation. I was just trying to socialise with my friends.

I affirm that the contents of this statement are true.



Signature of deponent

Place: Brisbane Date: 10 / 9 / 2026



Before me (signature of witness)

EMMA JANE ELISABETH WEST
Full name of witness (please print)

☐ Justice of the Peace (JP No. _____)

☐ Notary public

☒ Lawyer

☐ Other authorised person (specify): _____