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CFMEU DECISION HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEED FOR IR REFORM

“The record fines handed down by the Supreme Court of Victoria today demonstrates that Australia’s outdated industrial relations system is in urgent need of reform,” according to Aaron Lane, Research Fellow at the free market think tank the Institute of Public Affairs.

Today, the Victorian Branch of the CFMEU was fined \$1.25 million for contempt of court for its role in organising unlawful blockades of Grocon construction sites in the Melbourne CBD in August 2012.

“Unions like the CFMEU have been empowered and emboldened by the union-friendly nature of the *Fair Work Act*. The *Fair Work Act* recklessly tipped the balance in favour of unions against businesses, so it should be no surprise that some unions escalated their confrontation with employers.

“Union obstruction hurts workers, consumers and taxpayers. The *Fair Work Act* puts the interests of unions ahead of the community and is in urgent need of an overhaul,” said Mr. Lane.

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