

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 16 May 2018

SETKA AND REARDON VICTORY SIGNALS THE END OF A DARK ERA

Today's decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions to withdraw blackmail charges against CFMEU officials, John Setka and Shaun Reardon, is a win for workers, for safe worksites and for the right to organise and unionise.

While the decision finally book-ends a period of union persecution through prosecution, it raises brand new questions about the tactics used to stop union officials from fulfilling their most important duty; to protect the safety of their workers.

Gordon Legal Senior Partner, Peter Gordon said: "I want to pay tribute to the integrity and courage of Victoria's Director of Public Prosecutions in cutting through the legal spin against the CFMEU created over the last three years by a conga-line of lawyers for Boral, for the ACCC and for the Trade Union Royal Commission; and for bringing to an end what had become a farcical prosecution.

"The trumped-up charges against John and Shaun concocted by Boral Management collapsed like the house of cards it was, under scrutiny in an impartial court. It was the sort of hearing no unionist was ever going to get in the Trade Union Royal Commission," Gordon said.

"Working people in Australia have been constantly under attack by big business, anti-union governments and special interests in recent years.

"Today's decision is a win for workers, a win for workers' representatives and a big loss for extremist anti-worker forces in Australia.

"Throughout the court hearing, we have heard evidence of criminal acts from Boral, relating to the destruction of crucial evidence.

"We've also heard evidence in the last week about contact between Boral Executives and Tony Abbott, Eric Abetz and Robert Clarke.

"The same sort of scrutiny that has been applied to John Setka and Shaun Reardon over the past three years, should now be focussed on those who concocted this sham.

"This whole episode has further shredded the Trade Union Royal Commission's credibility and the credibility of Boral," Gordon said.

Less than five per cent of cases which face committal hearings get discharged at the committal stage. It's an even tinier fraction, in fact, it's extremely rare, for a serious charge in a committal proceeding to be abandoned by the prosecution before the prosecution's evidence is even finished

That the prosecution abandoned these charges before Boral CEO Mike Kane faced a single question in cross-examination tells Australia everything it needs to know about what happened here.

To find out more visit Gordon Legal: www.gordonlegal.com.au

Media contact: Lidija Ivanovski 0438 711 348