

CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MINING AND ENERGY UNION - ELECTION

1. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Labour Relations:

Will the minister update the House on investigations into the allegations of Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union officials putting pressure on a candidate not to stand in the coming elections?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Building and Construction Industry Task Force has been investigating allegations that a CFMEU official has pressured a candidate in the upcoming CFMEU elections to withdraw his nomination. The task force has given all the evidence it has gathered to date to the Director of Public Prosecutions and will continue to do so as it investigates this matter further. I expect the Director of Public Prosecutions will soon be able to give me some advice on whether there have been any breaches of either federal or state laws and on the type of action that can be taken.

There is no room for this type of thuggery in the building and construction industry. If the Director of Public Prosecutions advises me that there are grounds on which to take action, measures will be taken to ensure that this illegal practice is stamped out. The community has a right to expect the rules of this State to apply to everyone. Intimidation and strongarm thuggery is not acceptable practice. The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union should not conduct itself like the bikies of the union movement.