

Monday 8 January, 2018

Port Kembla lockout continues pattern of heavy-handed employer action

The decision by management at Port Kembla to lock out members of the CFMEU is another example of the attacks employers are able to unleash on working people thanks to our broken industrial relations system.

The lockout marks a new escalation by management in an ongoing campaign to strip conditions from workers who had previously been bargaining successfully with management for 25 years.

Quotes attributable to ACTU President Ged Kearney:

“Employers have been given too much power and have too many ways of punishing working people.”

“We need to change the rules so that working people have the power to negotiate for better wages and conditions, and cannot be bullied into giving them up.”

“The workers at Port Kembla have the full support of the entire union movement, we have seen this kind of behaviour by employers proliferating across the country and we will stand with every workforce which is attacked.”

“Workers at Glencore in Oaky North in Queensland have been locked out for 180 days, they are supported by the movement and will stay strong for as long as it takes for employers to understand that these intimidation tactics will not work.”

“Australian workers need a pay rise, not the cuts which are being threatened at Port Kembla, and we need to put the power back in the hands of workers to win those pay rises.”

“Workers know that Scott Morrison pleading with employers to increase wages isn't going to change anything. They need to be able to fight in their unions for the pay rises they need.”

“The Turnbull Government has allowed employers to run roughshod over the interests of working people, and it is resulting in the frankly alarming tactics we are seeing here. We have to change the rules and fix our broken industrial relations system.”

ENDS

Media contact: ACTU Media 03 9664 7315 or Peter Green: 0400 764 200

<http://www.actu.org.au/actu-media/media-releases>