

CFMEU

Forestry Furnishing Building Products &
Manufacturing Division (FFPD)

10 November, 2017

Mr Martin Kriewaldt
Chairman
Hyne Timber
P O Box 106
MARYBOROUGH QLD 4650

National Office
500 Swanston Street
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053
Phone: (03) 9274 9200
Fax: (03) 9274 9284
Freecall: 1800 060 556

Dear Martin

Re: Worker Health & Safety at Hyne Timber Tumbarumba mill

I am writing on behalf of CFMEU members employed by Hyne Timber at the Tumbarumba mill to express our serious concerns with the business' approach to managing work health and safety (WHS). This is evidenced by a range of serious breaches of WHS legislation; failures to meet basic consultative obligations and a poor track record of incidents and investigative processes that have not adequately applied a hierarchical approach to hazard control.

In recent months there have been a number of serious issues with management of WHS, including the following:

- Pedestrian / mobile traffic interaction on the site – workers are required to cross the entry road to swipe on and off at the gatehouse, exposing them to trucks and other traffic;
- Night Loading – lighting is inadequate for tasks with drivers having difficulty seeing properly;
- Debarking incident – following an incident where a log was speared from the Debarker into a loader cab, the ensuing investigation did not adequately involve workers or develop control measures utilising an appropriate hierarchical approach to controlling the risks;
- Workers exposed to 'T2' chemical following a 2,500 litre contaminated water spillage after a pipe rupture;
- Workers exposed to 'T3 Plus chemical, resulting in a workers compensation claim;

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.

Construction Forestry Mining & Energy Union – Forestry Furnishing Building Products & Manufacturing Division



ffpdadmin@cfmeu.org



www.facebook.com/CFMEUNational



CFMEU_National



www.cfmeu.net.au

- Inadequate facilities for workers to take their meal breaks – inadequate space and too small for numbers of workers to eat meals under cover;
- WHS Committee that does not have equal worker and management representatives;
- No worker Health & Safety Representatives in the Designated Work Groups.

The CFMEU, representing workers at the site, have raised these issues with the business a number of times. The responses at a site level from Noy Garner and by the Human Resource Specialist, Emma Conway have been inappropriate at best, and endangering workers lives at worst. Their inadequate responses to worker's WHS concerns has necessitated the intervention of SafeWork NSW to assist workers in resolving these issues. The SafeWork NSW intervention is ongoing at the time of writing.

The CFMEU brings these issues to your attention as the Chair of the Hyne Board. The Board has clear obligations and a duty of care to employees of the business. You cannot discharge your duty appropriately without understanding the issues within the business – and in this case - understanding the extent of the WHS issues at the Tumbarumba.

The CFMEU urge the Board to seek a full disclosure of the existing WHS issues at the site and documented plans to address them, in a manner that is appropriate to the risks and completed in a timely manner. The CFMEU also seek a written response from the Board with regard to the issues outlined above. We are committed to supporting workers on the site in their endeavours to have a workplace that is safe and healthy.

We are happy to discuss any of the above further with yourself or other members of the Board.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael O'Connor', written in a cursive style.

MICHAEL O'CONNOR
National Secretary