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MEDIA RELEASE
Friday, 4th September 2020

CFMEU
Construction & General
Vic/Tas Branch
540 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Letter: John Setka to The Premier of Victoria and Chief Health Officer of Victoria

The commercial construction industry has continued to lead workers safely through the COVID-19 pandemic. Our priority has always been to protect the safety and livelihoods of our members.

We implemented extreme safety measures well beyond those we were required to do in the early stages of the pandemic to ensure the protection of all construction workers.

These procedures meant we were better placed than any other industry to continue working and we must be allowed to do just that - not only to protect the livelihoods of the 300,000 plus Victorian construction workers but to lead the recovery of the Victorian economy.

Some of the measures we have in place are.

- Onsite Infectious disease awareness training
- On site temperature checking
- Site mapping
- COVID-19 safe jobsite fogging
- On-going mobile testing by Incolink having tested over 18,000 construction workers to date with only 7 positive confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Continuous medical grade sanitation cleaning
- Rostered breaks and split start times
- Social distancing also put in place for hoists, lunchrooms, and toolbox meetings
- Digital mapping trials are ongoing

The success of these safety measures is evident with the onsite COVID-19 confirmed commercial construction cases continuing to be at a minimum with only three cases in the past six weeks and zero cases in the past three weeks.

As the backbone of this country, the 300,000 plus Victorian construction workers across all sectors must go back to work now.

The onsite COVID-19 safety measures will continue to be an absolute priority, in the provision of protection for the construction industry and the community at large.

Yours sincerely, John Setka



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