



Media Release  
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## **AUSTRALIAN CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH INQUIRY INTO TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES**

The Australian Constructors Association (ACA) today said that it supported the Royal Commission announced by the Federal Government into trade union activities in which certain unions involved with the building and construction industry are identified.

Speaking following the announcement, ACA chief executive, Lindsay Le Compte, said that the ACA welcomed any action that governments decide to take that may prevent illegal activity and inappropriate practices from developing or continuing in the building and construction industry.

“The ACA wants to see an industry that is free from criminal influence and exploitation, an industry in which the public have confidence and an industry in which employers and employees are able to operate safely and on a commercially sensible and sound footing”, Mr Le Compte said.

The ACA also reiterated its call for the Parliament to pass the current legislation to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) and provide for other safeguards to ensure that industry participants could not use existing legislative structures to adversely affect appropriate commercial practices.

“The industry needs a national regulator that does not have competing priorities. It must have substantial law enforcement and investigatory resources, employ persons with the requisite specialised skills and coordinate activity with police and other agencies. Importantly, it must be prepared to expeditiously and vigorously pursue illegal or inappropriate activities.”

“The Gyles and Cole Royal Commissions into the building industry demonstrated the value of having a strong regulator with appropriate powers to work with the industry and the peak law enforcement agencies to improve the operation of the industry and deter those who may think that they can take advantage of their positions. Re-establishing the ABCC with appropriate powers, combined with effective codes of practice, will go a long way to addressing the problems that the industry currently faces”, Mr Le Compte said.

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