

# FINANCIAL REVIEW

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**HD** **Vic union a big party donor**  
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Victoria's militant construction union was the second-biggest union donor to the state's Labor Party over the last three years, pitching in \$542,191.

The Construction, Forestry, **Mining** and **Energy** Union was the third-biggest donor to the party overall in the 2012-13 financial year, donating \$181,463.

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It was topped by the Labor Services Holdings Trust, and a \$3.6 **million** Zhongfu Investments – a **Chinese** property developer whose "donation" was the proceeds from the **sale** of the Labor Party's Victorian branch head office.

The CFMEU declined to comment and Opposition Leader Daniel Andrews won't disassociate the party from the union.

The most recent opinion poll by Galaxy found Labor leading the Coalition 52 to 48 percentage points.

Mr Andrews remains committed to abolishing the state's building and construction code if elected, but has denied it was because of pressure from the CFMEU.

He asserts he will wait for the findings of the Royal Commission and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission legal action, before commenting.

"I'm not going to interfere and trample on that process," he said. "If action is required I will not hesitate to take that action."

The union has already been found in contempt of a Supreme Court injunction for conducting an illegal blockade at Grocon's Myer Emporium site. It got \$1.25 **million** in penalties.

In the absence of the Victorian building code, in order to receive federal funding for major projects the state will be required to adhere to the federal building code.

Shadow Treasurer Tim Pallas said the federal government had "played that trick" before.

He said the building industry was a national industry that the federal government should be responsible for regulating. "Ultimately it is a matter the federal government seeks to manage and regulate," he said.

"We don't see why the state of Victoria would then seek to duplicate processes. We want the opportunity to form government and to talk to the federal government about the application of the code and what funds they would make available to the state of Victoria."

In the Labor Party's election commitment costings, released on Thursday, the party spruiked the \$8.4 **million** saving it would have from disbanding the Construction Code Compliance Unit.

Federal Employment Minister Eric Abetz told the parliament on Thursday about "the CFMEU-inspired policy of Daniel Andrews to abolish Victoria's construction code".

He said four major infrastructure projects in Victoria are reliant on federal funding.

"No code, no funding," he said. "So Labor threatens Victoria with a loss of **billions** of dollars for vital infrastructure projects. So this is the cost to Victorians for Daniel Andrews' unseemly association with John Setka and the CFMEU."

The figures of donations for the last financial year, 2013-14, will not be publicly available until February.

Only contributions greater than \$11,200 are subject to disclosure under the Commonwealth Electoral Act and Victoria does not have a disclosure policy, although all parties must lodge with the Victorian Election Commission a copy of their federal annual return, which refers to the \$50,000 cap on any donations received from casinos and gambling licensees.

Key points The CFMEU has made major donations to Labor over three years. Daniel Andrews will wait for commission findings before commenting on scrapping Vic building code.

**CO** cufymu : Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union  
**NS** gpol : Domestic Politics | gcat : Political/General News | gpir : Politics/International Relations  
**RE** austr : Australia | victor : Victoria (Australia) | apacz : Asia Pacific | ausnz : Australia/Oceania  
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