



Senator Jacqui Lambie
Senator for Tasmania

14 April 2015

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier
517A Princess Highway
Noble Park VIC 3174

Email: Daniel.andrews@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Premier

I refer you to what is allegedly a secret report, as well as a Cabinet in Confidence Report, authored by Nigel Hadgkiss, a former Construction Code Compliance Chief. Mr Hadgkiss is now a Director of the Fair Work Building and Construction Commission.

I have been reliably informed that one of the main purposes of the Report was to examine the connection between organised criminal gangs and the building and construction industry in Victoria.

A number of media stories have alleged that the Report given to the Victorian Government in 2013 warned of illegal behaviour during the Grocon dispute was “the tip of the iceberg” in an industry where “unlawful activity extends beyond unlawful industrial relations conduct into serious criminal activity”.

Media reports in the Herald Sun on 1 April 2014 allege that strong links between a number of outlaw bikie gangs and the provision of drugs and prostitutes to the workers during the construction of the desalination plant also occurred.

I am very concerned about the alleged links between organised criminal gangs and Australia’s Building and Construction industry and would appreciate if you could provide me with a copy of Mr Hadgkiss’ Report.

I believe that Mr Hadgkiss’ Report is an important document which would allow me to become fully informed as I prepare to cast my vote and make a decision in the Federal Senate regarding the Australian Building Construction Code legislation.

I understand the original terms of reference included:

- conduct at the recent blockades of Grocon construction sites, including conduct that may be unlawful and/or a breach of the Government’s construction industry guidelines;
- the use of violence, intimidation or harassment within the industry;



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- the obligations of other employers whose workers took part in the Grocon blockades;
- breaches of industrial and other laws that may have occurred during the Grocon blockades;
- the effectiveness of current Commonwealth regulation of the building industry, including whether action could be taken by the Commonwealth in relation to the Grocon blockades
- recommendations for immediate actions to strengthen compliance with the law and the guidelines

I also believe that an updated final report was submitted by Mr Hadkiss in August 2013 with additional terms of reference:

- practices that create a tolerance of unlawful conduct;
- other conduct and practices in breach of the guidelines;
- possible involvement of organised crime elements within the industry;\
- the current state of compliance with legal obligations within the industry in comparison with historic compliance levels;
- the impact of recent changes to the Guidelines to the National Code and the abolition of the Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (ABCC); and
- recommendations for future actions to enhance compliance with the law and the guidelines.

I would appreciate it if you could please provide both these reports by return.

Yours sincerely

Senator Jacqui Lambie
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