

CEPU SA BRANCH CONFERENCE

Day One

THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Precinct, Alberton Oval



Conference opening and acknowledgement of country

Branch President Corey Van Der Tuuk opened the conference at 08:33 and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Kurna land.

Credentials and voting

The Secretary explained voting rights and participation in discussion and debate.

Attendance and apologies

The Secretary read the attendance list in the conference papers and noted corrections.

Attendees:

State Councillors		Sub-Branch Delegates	
Corey Van Der Tuuk	Branch President	Adam McInnes (Thurs)	Metro Sub-Branch
John Adley	Branch Secretary	Antoni Spagnoletti	Metro Sub-Branch
Jason Harrison	Branch Vice President Electricity Supply	Simon Thompson	Metro Sub-Branch
Andrew Nagel	Electricity Supply	Michelle Vlachos	Metro Sub-Branch
Nick Barrett	Electricity Supply	Dave Van Der Zon	Metro Sub-Branch
James Cooper	Electrical Contracting	Chris Paproth	Sth East Sub-Branch Secretary
Brenton Jack	Electrical Contracting	Graham Hearnden	Sth East Sub-Branch President
Joshua Elsworthy	Plumbing and Fire Protection	Caleb Thornton	Mid Nth Barossa Sub-Branch
Corey Daykin	Plumbing and Fire Protection	Mitchell Hass	Eyre Peninsula Sub-Branch
Zahn Anthony	Manufacturing	Justin Hughes	Eyre Peninsula Sub-Branch
Peter Lavender	Manufacturing	Adam Zubrinich	Far Nth Sub-Branch Secretary
Carl Muegge	General Trade		
Natasha Shelton	General Trade		

Alastair Carrol	Defence		
Gaynor Maree	Affirmative Action		

Special Guests, Observers and Supporters:

Guests			
Mark Harding	Tyrone	Chris Green	AGL
Stephen Hannah	Infront	Sean Gibson	Ventia
Mark Musolino	NSG	Mim Sacchetti	AGL
Dale Lewis	NSG	Matt Vischnich	BAE
Simon Billett	UMPL	Zion Loch	RNW
Matt Sruhan	UMPL	Paul Meier	RNW
Jake Smith	UMPL	Sean Drennon (Fri)	ARTC
Matt Rodda	UMPL	Bronte Colmer	Admin team
Lewis Adcock	UMPL	Max Mawby	Organiser
Leon Burgan	Liberty	Alex Capper	Organiser
Joe Vlachoulis	Liberty	Jason Lailey	Organiser
Scott Siviour	Liberty	Max Mawby	Organiser
Wesley Toman	RNW	Dan Ramm	Organiser
Michael Goldfinch	ASC		
Robert (Bob) Grant	Special Guest		

Guest Presenters and Industry Partners			
Michael Wright	CEPU & ETU National Secretary	Rick Ortega	Cbus
Vanessa Garbett	ETU National Technical Officer	Paul Scudds	Cbus

Annette Moran	ETU National Compliance officer	Glenn Janes	Protect
Jo Sutton	ETU National Media Officer	Eric Lock	Incolink
Erin Hennessy	Women in Defence	Benjamin Maxfield	Incolink
Dale Beasley	SA Unions Secretary	Matt Blowes	BIRST
Dash Taylor-Johnson	SA Unions WHS Trainer	Mandy Magin	PLSL
Paul Hopkins	SA Unions Mind Your Head Coordinator	Holly Willcox	CITB
Cameron Baker	Chair of the SA Skills Commission	David Lang	Union Shopper
Ben Jewell	SA Skills Commission	John Pergoli	Unity Bank
Maddie Diamond	Working Women's Centre	Dean Freda	Brokerage and Co
Emma Ashley	Working Women's Centre	Patrick North	Johnston Withers Lawyers
Mike Khizam	Australian Friends of Palestine Association	Elliot Womersley	Johnston Withers Lawyers

'That the guests, observers and supporters be admitted to attend and participate in discussions. That our industry partners are thanked for their support. That apologies received from Taylor Grace, James Smith, Josh Brown, Scott Siviour, Josh Bell, Ryan O'Kane, Sean Drennon (can't attend Thurs), Jess Rogers (SAET), Christian Bombig (Incolink), Michael Mavros (PLSL), Alison Weatherill (RT Health) be accepted'

Moved: Jason Harrison Seconded: Nick Barrett

CARRIED

Chairman, Deputy and Minute Taker

'That Corey Van Der Tuuk be appointed Chairman; Jason Harrison be appointed Deputy Chairman and Daniel Ramm be appointed minute taker'

Moved: John Adley Seconded: Alistair Carroll

CARRIED

Agenda

An agenda was distributed prior to the conference by the Secretary.

'That the agenda be accepted'.

Moved: Andrew Nagel Seconded: Nick Barrett

CARRIED

Expenses

Sitting expenses have not been paid to delegates attending Branch Conference since the 2017 conference when a per diem payment of \$90 was paid. All delegates that require it are provided with accommodation and meals; travel expenses are covered in line with the Branch Travel Policy.

‘That no sitting fees are to be paid, but all expenses incurred by delegates attending the conference will be paid upon provision of receipts, this includes all reasonable travel costs’

Moved: Brenton Jack

Seconded: Alastair Carroll

CARRIED

Previous Conference Minutes

It was agreed by consensus that the minutes of the 2023 Branch Conference will be dealt with on day two.

NOTED

Business Arising

Covered in the agenda

NOTED

CBUS presentation – Rick Ortega and Paul Scudds reported on Cbus Super, spoke about the importance of adequate insurance and the benefit of members having access to local Cbus coordinators for assistance with super related matters.

Branch Presidents Report – Corey Van Der Tuuk introduced himself to delegates and gave an overview of his background. Spoke about the CFMEU being forced into administration by the federal government without due regard for proper legal process and rights. Reported on delegate training and the importance of having trained delegates representing our members and providing mentoring to new delegates. Spoke about recent membership growth and reaching the historic high point of 4000 members. The President thanked Delegates, State Councillors, the Vice President, the Organising Team and the Admin Team for their work in supporting our members.

Branch Secretary’s Report – John Adley reported on membership growth. Membership increased by 9% in the 2023 calendar year and grew by a further 6% to October 2024. Spoke about changes in the Organising and Admin teams. Reported on the union’s financial position and spoke about the functions of State Council and the Executive Committee.

[Link to Branch Secretary’s presentation](#)

SA Unions Report – Dale Beasley - Explained SA Unions purpose, history, leadership, structure, and affiliates. Discussed SA Unions campaigns and wins for workers.

[Link to SA Unions presentation](#)

Morning smoko break 09:45 – 10:10

Protect – Glenn Janes spoke about Protect Income Protection and Severance schemes.

SA Skills Commissioner – Cameron Baker – Explained what the Skills Commission is and does and the importance of ensuring that the training and apprenticeship system is properly regulated.

[Link to Skills Commission presentation](#)

CEPU/ETU National Secretary’s Report – Michael Wright spoke about the CFMEU being forced into administration by an act of Parliament. Discussed the transition to net zero, EVs and the electrification of everything. Spoke about the skill shortage in our industries. Discussed the SAPN

Industrial dispute and it being used a precedent interstate in the Transgrid and Endeavour energy campaigns. Spoke about the Saputo campaign in Tasmania and Willmar dispute in Queensland.

National Compliance Officer – Annette Moran – Discussed changes to delegates rights provisions in awards and under the Fair Work Act. The new laws provide improved rights but come with some more responsibilities.

[Link to delegates rights presentation](#)

Lunch break 12:15

Incolink – Eric Lock – spoke about the Incolink income protection and severance scheme and the added benefits it is able to provide members. Discussed the differences between Incolink and other members entitlement funds. Spoke about the media controversy regarding Incolink whipped up by Will Frogley, CEO of the SA Master Builders Association for reasons of self-interest. Advised that Incolink is setting up a South Australian specific division.

Australian Friends of Palestine – Mike Khiyam gave a presentation on the current humanitarian disaster playing out in Gaza due to the war being waged by Israel with US support. Spoke about the Australian government's responsibilities and involvement. Discussed the importance of local grass roots activism in response to global human rights issues.

ETU National Apprentice of the Year 2023 – Zahn Anthony introduced herself and spoke about her experience in becoming the 2023 ETU National Apprentice of the Year. Reported on her part in political lobbying efforts by the union in Canberra. Gave a report on the Global Power Trade Unions Conference held in Sweden that she attended as ETU National Apprentice of the Year. Encouraged apprentices to apply for the 2024 competition. Thanked the ETU National Office for their support.

Making workplaces better for women - Working Women's Centre Emma, Emma and Maddie from the WWC conducted a workshop session on how to make workplaces in our industries better for women, discussed the importance of increasing female participation in our trades and why this is union business.

Afternoon smoko break 15:00

Johnston and Withers Lawyers – Patrick North and Elliot Womersley spoke about the legal services JW is able to provide and the discounts available to CEPU SA members.

National Technical Officer – Vanessa Garbett introduced herself and spoke about her experience entering the electrical trade and being a woman in our industry. Spoke about transition to renewable energy, national skills shortage, lack of apprentice training and shortage of trade trainers. Spoke about national standards and work to keep standards relevant and up to date with technological changes. Reported on training package reviews and recent work to protect electrical work from employer associations efforts to allow un-licensed refrigeration workers to perform electrical work.

National Media Officer – Jo Sutton introduced herself and history in the union movement. She explained her role as national Media Officer for the ETU and the methods and importance of the unions communications to members, the public and politicians.

Group photo break



WHS legislation – Dash Taylor Johnston discussed recent changes to WHS laws won by sustained SA Unions campaign and how these changes can be utilised to assist in making workplaces safer. Spoke about SafeWork SA and the need to make them an effective regulator. Spoke about the importance of HSR's and proper HSR training.

[Link to WHS laws update](#)

Mind Your Head update Paul Hopkins – Discussed the Mind Your Head mental health project.

Closure - The President closed Day 1 of the conference at 17:00

CEPU SA BRANCH CONFERENCE

Day Two

FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2024

The Precinct, Alberton Oval



Opening and acknowledgement of country

Branch President Corey Van Der Tuuk opened the conference at 08:35 and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on Kurna land.

BIRST – Matt Blowes introduced himself as a former ASU, CFMEU and IEU organiser, recently appointed as a BIRST Field Officer. Spoke about the SA Building Industry Redundancy Fund and its services to members.

CEPU SA Women’s Officer - Gaynor Bowers introduced herself and spoke about her experience becoming an electrical trades person and later the first female electrical trainer at SA Power Networks. Spoke about becoming the union delegate for the SAPN Angle Park Training Centre and leading members in that work group to take industrial action for the first time. Spoke about the CEPU SA Women’s group which holds regular catch ups with the aim of providing a support network for women union members in our trades. Spoke about the Women In Male Dominated Occupations and Industries (WIMDOI) conference held in Cairns.

Portable Long Service Leave - Mandy Magin explained the history of portable long service leave in Australia and how the SA scheme works. Discussed recent changes to PLSL legislation and expansion into the community sector.

[Link to PLSL presentation](#)

[Link to PLSL video](#)

Construction Industry Training Board – Holly Willcox CEO explained what the CITB does and how it operates.

[Link to CITB presentation](#)

Women in Defence Project – Erin Hennesy reported on the SA Government funded project to recruit women and provide them pre-vocational training to prepare them for electrical apprenticeships in the defence industry sector. This project aims to have at least 15 women commence apprenticeships in May next year. <https://www.facebook.com/share/famkG7qQUJT7pabN/>

Picnic Day promotional video – played video made by Max Mawby to promote the SA Building Industry Picnic Day: [Facebook](#)

Union Shopper – **David Lang** – Spoke about the Union Shopper service to members and conducted the union shopper raffle draw. Bronte Colmer was drawn and won a Nutra bullet.

Morning smoko break 10:00

Industry Sector Reports – Organisers and Delegates

Daniel Ramm – briefly introduced himself, thanked former Organiser Paul Scudds for his work representing members and assistance with the hand over to Dan. Explained the areas in his organising patch. Reported on the substandard ARTC Enterprise Agreement. Discussed the current situation at the Whyalla Steel works which has been in the media a lot recently.

Justin Huges and Mitchell Hass - expanded on the issues facing Whyalla and took questions.

Joe Vlachoulis – spoke about the phyco-social impacts on workers and the community created by the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the steelworks.

Alex Capper – Spoke about recent Organising team changes, CFMEU Administration, ION/ASI, Tyrones welcoming ASI members, Menco/Infront, NSG ramping up.

Carl Muegge – Older members leaving the industry due to retirement, new younger workers need to be educated and encouraged to join the union.

James Cooper – Importance of having the support of other delegates and co-delegates on site.

Branch Policy Positions and Political Affiliation

Discussed the Federal Labor government doing a deal with Michalea Cash to deny CFMEU members legal rights and force the union into administration. This disgraceful act, in reaction to a Sixty Minutes TV programme, is a dangerous precedent for all unions and civil society groups.

Discussed the Malinauskas governments track record of overreacting to mainstream media reports, making bad decisions and passing bad laws. Examples include the Statutes Amendments Bill which introduced jail time for public protest, amplifying negative media about the CFMEU by handing back a legitimate political donation and passing a law to allow the State Branch of the CFMEU to be put into administration.

‘That the members of the 2024 CEPUSA Branch Divisional Conference endorses the CEPU State Council resolution on 11th September 2024 to disaffiliate from the Australian Labor Party. The members of the 2024 CEPUSA Branch Divisional Conference acknowledge that political affiliation will continue to be reviewed in line with the democratic decision-making processes of the union’.

Moved: Chris Paproth

Seconded: James Cooper

CARRIED (Gaynor Maree voted against)

Presentation - 61-year member **Robert (Bob) Grant** was presented with an award recognising his many years of loyal union membership. Bob spoke about his career which started as an apprentice with ETSA in 1963. Bob knowledgeably discussed union history in Australia and the ongoing importance of the work unions continue today.



Lunch break – 12:00

Industry Sector Reports – Organisers and Delegates

Jason Lailey - Importance of delegates, PEER Directorship, SAPN EA, Coober Pedy Council, other electricity distribution companies, Mates in Energy.

Adam Zubrinich – Need to raise awareness of what the union does and what members can do to help each other.

Andrew Nagel – Called for the branch to provide better industrial officer (legal) support to members, this is not as good now that Jess Rogers has left the Branch to take up role with the SA Employment Tribunal. Very good union density at SA Power Networks. The big SAPN industrial campaign was important in educating and activating workers. Congratulated Corey Van Der Tuuk and Dan Ramm on their new roles within the union.

Michele Vlachos – Important that the union continues to fight for fairness and makes the membership aware of the plight of others. Pleased to see the CEPU driving the Women in Defence Project.

Matt Sruhan – Great that the union is addressing new SAPN employees when they commence employment. Noted the current uncertainty and difficulties facing workers in Whyalla.

Dave Van Der Zon – Thanked former President and current Vice President Jason Harrison for his efforts over many years representing CEPU members. Spoke about the ETU National Uranium Policy and the need for it to be changed so that workers can be represented by the appropriate union.

Jason Harrison – Pleased to be at this delegates conference with members determined to continue the fight.

CEPU/ETU Policies

John Adley gave an overview of the ETU National Uranium Policy and changes made at the 2022 Officers Conference. Referred to discussion in 2023 Branch Conference as recorded in the minutes. Spoke about WA Branch being affected due to AUKUS and new uranium mines in that state. WA are currently conducting a survey to gauge the position of members on a range of issues including nuclear energy. The State Branches of the union have autonomy under our rules. The Branch policy and direction is driven by its members.

‘The members of the 2024 CEPUSA Branch Divisional Conference directs the Branch Secretary to organise a survey amongst our members to find out their personal views on various issues (to be determined) particularly the issue of the Branches ability to support members who work in the uranium industry’.

Moved: Chris Paproth

Seconded: Dave Van Der Zon

CARRIED

Industry Sector Reports – Organisers and Delegates

Max Mawby – Hallett power station issue working remote and alone, Service Stream, AGL wind generation, CPP EA, Downers EA, Electranet EA, Net Zero Authority, Air quality.

Chris Green – Spoke about the AGL lead issue, his exposure, subsequent health issues and the health risks faced by his family created by ‘take home’ lead. Discussed the pathetic response by SafeWork SA to this serious safety issue.

Sean Gibson – described his experience with AGL lead exposure. Reported on new job at Ventia.

Mim Sacchetti – Introduced himself to conference delegates.

Adrian Valente – Two-tiered Plumbing industry. Jordan and Axis tier 1, talks with workers and 3 GMs, Mass meeting held with approximately 50 members at Prospect Town Hall to endorse non-negotiables:

- 36 hour week
- All OT a x2
- Jump up clause

- Remove tiered rates
- Severance scheme
- Picnic day

Workers leaving the plumbing industry for Mech Services and shipbuilding industry, fire protection 14 companies doing wet work with a mostly pattern agreement. Recruiting delegates and doing surveys regarding new draft EA. 12 companies doing dry work with varying EAs, RNW PIA for new EA matching Electrical EAs, Jump up clause and Hardship Fund. Trojan pushing for RNW EA. Mech Services 14 companies with pattern EAs.

Simon Pisoni – Acknowledged sacred Port Adelaide territory, spoke about electrical licensing, negotiating for members as a small union part of multi union negotiations in manufacturing industry, nuclear policy and representing members in submarine manufacture and sustainment, if ETU abandons members in this industry the AWU and AMWU will take over and we will lose licensing in manufacturing as a result. SA Water HV switching safety issues and pathetic response by SafeWork SA.

Tash Shelton – Spoke about her work at SA Water and took questions

Unity Bank – John Pergoli spoke about the history of Unity bank and its association with the union movement. Explained benefits to CEPU members of being Unity Bank members and loan products offered by Unity Bank. John did the Unity Bank prize draw Steve Hannah won a hamper.

Afternoon Smoko break – 15:00

Brokerage and Co - Dean Freda spoke about his history as an electrician and member of the union. Explained and offered his mortgage broker services to CEPU members. If Dean can't save members money on their mortgage repayments, they don't need to pay him. If he can save members money there is still no charge to members and, not only save money, but Dean will contribute to their union membership dues.

CEPU SA Branch Conference 2023 Minutes – John Adley explained difficulties with minute taking led to very brief record of events. Errors picked up by Alastair Carroll and Zahn Anthony were corrected.

‘That the minutes of the CEPU SA Branch Conference 2023 be accepted as true and accurate’

Moved: Jason Harrison

Seconded: Alastair Carroll

CARRIED



CEPU SA Branch Conference 2023

'On behalf of the 2024 Branch Conference we congratulate and thank the office staff and all those involved who helped set up and organise this successful conference'.

Moved: Chris Paproth

Seconded: Alastair Carroll

CARRIED

Next State Council – 17:00 Wednesday 13 November

2024 Bob Donnelly Award – a call for nominees will go out to members soon and the winner will be determined at the December State Council meeting.

Closure - The President thanked everyone for their attendance and input over the last 2 days. He thanked the sponsors for their support and all the special guests and speakers. He then closed the 2024 CEPU SA Branch conference at 16:00.

DRAFT