



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Industrial Registry**

Level 8, Terrace Towers  
80 William Street, East Sydney, NSW 2011  
Telephone: (02) 8374 6666  
Fax: (02) 9380 6990

Mr Michael Ravbar  
State Secretary  
CFMEU Queensland Branch  
366 Upper Roma Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Ravbar

**Re: Application for certificate of exemption from requirements of Chapter 8 Part 3 of Schedule 1 of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* (FR2007/555)**

I refer to your application dated 18 August 2008 for the above certificate in respect of the Queensland Branch of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union for the financial year ending 31 December 2007.

Could you please note that under s. 271 (3) of Schedule 1 of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* an application for exemption from financial reporting must be made within 90 days after the end of the financial year.

The application has been granted. The certificate is enclosed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David Vale'.

David Vale  
for Deputy Industrial Registrar

20 August 2008



**Workplace Relations Act 1996**

s.271 certificate of exemption from requirements of Part 3, Chapter 8

**Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union  
(FR2007/555)**

CERTIFICATE

On 18 August 2008 an application was made under section 271(1) of Schedule 1 of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* for a certificate of exemption by the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union, Queensland Branch, in respect of the financial year ending 31 December 2007.

I CERTIFY that I am satisfied that the branch did not have any financial affairs in the financial year ending 31 December 2007.



DEPUTY INDUSTRIAL REGISTRAR

20 August 2008



Construction Forestry Mining &  
Energy Union  
Construction & General Division  
Queensland Construction  
Workers Divisional Branch  
FFBPM Division, Qld Branch

(The Construction, Forestry, Mining  
& Energy, Industrial Union of  
Employees, Queensland) Est. 1858

(Federated Engine Drivers' and  
Firemen's Association of Queensland,  
Union of Employees)



366 Upper Roma Street,  
Brisbane Q. 4000

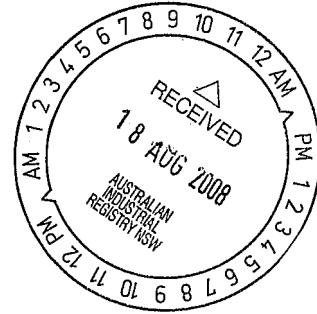
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State Secretary: MJ Ravbar  
Assistant Secretary: PA Close  
KR Murphy (Hon)  
LJ Genrich (Hon)  
State President: T Smith

:ca  
14 August 2008

Industrial Registrar  
Australian Industrial Registry  
Level 80, 80 William Street  
EAST SYDNEY NSW 2011



Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Workplace Relations Act 1996 s271A – Application for Exemption Certificate**

I am Secretary of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union Queensland Branch ("the Branch") and occupied that position for the financial year ending 31 December 2003 ("the financial year"). I am authorised under the rules to act on behalf of the Branch.

Pursuant to the Workplace Relations Act 1996, schedule 1 Registration and Accountability of Organisations ("the Act") Section 271, I hereby apply for a certificate of exemption for the Branch in respect of the financial year.

In support of this application I submit as follows;

1. The CFMEU consists of a number of Divisions.
2. There exists a number of Divisional Branches (or in the case of the Mining and Energy Division, District Branches) within these Divisions. Such Divisional (or District) Branches function within a designated geographical area, in most cases being the State or Territory in which they are established.
3. The CFMEU and each Division and Divisional (or District) Branch thereof submit annual financial returns in accordance with Part IX Division 11 of the Act.
4. The CFMEU State Branches, including the Branch, consist of the members and officers of each Divisional (or District) Branch in each State or Territory.
5. The Branch has not traded or carried out financial transactions of any kind during the financial year.
6. The Branch has not had an account with the Bank or any other financial institution nor has it had custody of any real property or monies during the financial year.
7. Accordingly the Branch had no reason to keep accounting records during the financial year.
8. Notwithstanding the above, the Branch has functioned in accordance with the rules of the CFMEU including the rules relating to branches.

Yours faithfully,

Michael Ravbar  
**STATE SECRETARY, CFMEU – Queensland Branch**



**Ref: FR2007/555-[105N-QLDU]**

Mr Michael Ravbar  
State Secretary  
CFMEU Queensland Branch  
366 Upper Roma Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Ravbar

**Re: Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union - Queensland Branch  
Outstanding Financial Documents - *Workplace Relations Act 1996***

The Accounts and Audit Part of Schedule 1 of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* requires, as a general rule, that the audited financial statements of a reporting unit of a registered organisation, be lodged in the Industrial Registry within 6 months and 14 days from the end of its financial year.

To date, the Registry has no record of lodgement of the financial reports of the above named reporting unit for the year ended 31 December, 2007.

In particular there is no record of lodgement of copies of:

- the general purpose financial report (which includes the Committee of Management Statement);
- the auditor's report; and
- the operating report.

These three reports are referred to as the "full report".

Section 268 of the RAO Schedule<sup>1</sup> requires that a copy of the full report be lodged in the Registry within 14 days (or such longer period a Registrar allows) after the full report is presented to a general meeting of members (or to a committee of management meeting if the rules make provision consistent with s266(3)).

Section 266 (1) requires that the full report be presented to the meeting within 6 months of the end of the financial year. Therefore, lodgement of the documents in the Registry was required by **16 July, 2008.**

Section 305(2)(ze) of the RAO Schedule is a civil penalty provision. It provides that a failure to meet the requirements of s268 is a contravention of that civil penalty provision. The Federal Court may on application of the Industrial Registrar impose a pecuniary penalty on the person or organisation whose conduct contravened the civil penalty provision.

I also draw your attention to the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 9 of the RAO Schedule which set out the general duties of officers and employees of organisations and their branches in relation to financial management.

In the absence of lodgement of a copy of the full report, I request you state in writing by **25 August, 2008:**

- whether a Committee of Management Statement and an Operating Report have been prepared;
- whether the auditor has audited the general purpose financial report and if so, the date on which the auditor signed the audit report;
- whether the full report has been provided to members, and if so, when;

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 1 of the Workplace Relations Act 1996

- whether the full report provided to the members has been presented to a general or committee of management meeting, and if so, when;
- when a copy of the full report will be lodged in the Industrial Registry.

The full report when lodged must be accompanied by a Designated Officer's Certificate certifying that the documents lodged are copies of the documents provided to members and presented to the general or committee of management meeting in accordance with s266.

You can access the Commission's website where a new site has been created dealing with:

- RAO Fact sheets - These Fact Sheets explain the requirements of the RAO Schedule - many of them deal with financial reporting matters.
- Financial Reporting Sample Documents – Sample Committee of Management's Statement, Designated Officer's Certificate and checklists for illustrative purposes.
- Registrar's Reporting Guidelines - The GPFR must comply with these Guidelines. Please note that the Guidelines set out requirements that are *in addition* to those required by the Australian Accounting Standards.
- RAO Schedule and RAO Regulations

These documents can be accessed at: <http://www.airc.gov.au/registered/FR/information.htm>.

The Registry strongly encourages your organisation to lodge documents electronically by either:

- Sending an email with the documents attached to: [orgs@air.gov.au](mailto:orgs@air.gov.au)
- Sending the documents by fax to: (02) 93806990

If you wish to discuss this letter, please contact me on (02) 8374 6666. In reply please quote: **FR2007/555**.

Yours sincerely



Steve Teece

E-mail: [steve.teece@air.gov.au](mailto:steve.teece@air.gov.au)

07 August 2008



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Industrial Registry**

Level 8, Terrace Towers  
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**Ref: FR2007/555-[105N-QLDU]**

Mr Michael Ravbar  
State Secretary  
Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union  
Queensland Branch  
366 Upper Roma Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Ravbar

**Financial Return - year ending 31 December, 2007**

Our records show the organisation's financial year ended recently. This letter outlines some of the things you must do to meet your financial reporting obligations and when you have to do them. For simplicity, we will call the documents you have to lodge with us your *financial return*.

This letter is intended as guide to the law applicable on the date of this letter, and should not be used as a substitute for legal or accounting advice. We only summarise some of the reporting requirements in this letter. More detailed information is at the end of this letter.

**Information on AIRC Website**

We recommend you and your accountant/auditor also refer to the following documents on the Commission's website at [www.airc.gov.au](http://www.airc.gov.au):

- [RAO Schedule](#)
- [RAO Regulations](#)
- [Registrar's Reporting Guidelines](#) - All GPFR's must comply with these Guidelines. Please note that the Guidelines set out requirements that are *in addition* to those required by the Australian Accounting Standards.
- [RAO Fact Sheets](#) - These Fact Sheets explain the requirements of the RAO Schedule - many of them deal with financial reporting matters.

**Reporting Unit**

Under the provisions of the Registration and Accountability of Organisations Schedule (RAO), Schedule 1 of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, reporting entities are known as "*reporting units*". Where an organisation is **not** divided into branches the reporting unit is the whole of the organisation. Where an organisation **is** divided into branches each branch will be a reporting unit unless the Industrial Registrar has determined a division of the organisation into reporting units on an alternative basis. We can discuss this with you if you need more information.

For simplicity, we will use the term "reporting unit" in this letter.

## Industrial Registrar's Guidelines

The Industrial Registrar's reporting guidelines set out certain disclosure requirements in addition to those prescribed by Australian Accounting Standards having in mind the nature of organisations registered under the Workplace Relations Act.

The disclosure requirements prescribed by the reporting guidelines are directed towards providing members of the reporting unit with information to enable them to gauge the performance of the committee of management and other holders of office in relation to the financial management of the reporting unit. In addition, the reporting guidelines seek to improve the quality of information available to users of the financial report about the reporting unit's economic support of, or economic dependency on, other reporting units of the organisation.

### Timeline Planner and Checklist

We have attached a Timeline/Planner (*Attachment A*) to help you **plan** your financial return and carry out all the necessary steps. We have also attached a Document Checklist (*Attachment B*) to **check** your documents before lodging them in the Registry. Both documents are abbreviated summaries of the relevant provisions of the RAO Schedule, RAO Regulations and the Industrial Registrar's Reporting Guidelines.

In the following section we describe some of the documents your reporting unit must prepare and the sequence of their preparation and completion.

### Three Reports

Your reporting unit must prepare two reports as soon as practicable after its financial year, which, together with the Auditor's Report, comprise the reporting unit's financial return.

1. **General Purpose Financial Report** - this must comply with the Australian Accounting Standards and the Industrial Registrar's Reporting Guidelines. The GPFR consists of:

(a) Financial Statements containing:

- a profit and loss statement, or other operating statement; and
- a balance sheet; and
- a statement of cash flows; and
- any other statements required by the Australian Accounting Standards; and

(b) Notes to the Financial Statements containing:

- notes required by the Australian Accounting Standards; and
- information required by the Industrial Registrar's *Reporting Guidelines* under section 255 including disclosures related to any recovery of wages activity ; and

(c) Committee of Management Statement as required by the Registrar's Reporting Guidelines (a sample certificate for illustrative purposes is at Attachment C) including declarations related to the recovery of wages activity.

2. **Operating Report** - this report includes a review of your reporting unit's principal activities for the year and other specified information.

Your reporting unit must appoint an auditor to audit the GPFR and to provide:

3. an **Auditor's Report**.

## **First Meeting (Committee of Management)**

For simplicity, we will call the meeting at which the committee of management first considers the GPFR the first meeting. At the first meeting your committee, if satisfied that all is in order, will resolve to express its opinion on the GPFR and complete a Committee of Management Statement.

### **The Auditor**

After the first meeting, the auditor takes the GPFR and the Committee of Management Statement and prepares a report on the GPFR. In practice, your auditor may have already completed most of his or her examination of your accounts. The auditor may only be waiting on the Committee to pass the required resolution and make the Statement before signing the report the same day.

### **Informing Your Members**

Your reporting unit must provide free of charge to the general membership, copies of the GPFR, the Operating Report and the Auditor's Report. RAO calls these the "full report". Under certain circumstances, your reporting unit can provide a more limited *concise report*.

The reporting unit can meet its obligation to provide copies of the full or concise report to members by publishing the report in a journal that is available to the members free of charge.

A reporting unit may meet this obligation in whole or in part by publication of the report in a journal published on a web site on the Internet dependent on:

- a. the extent of the accessibility of the members of the reporting unit to the Internet; and
- b. that the members are notified by the reporting unit in the usual manner in which it communicates with its members that the report has been so published at a specified Internet address.

The report must be provided within 5 or 6 months from the end of the financial year, depending on the internal arrangements of the organisation for the presentation of its financial reports.

### **The Second Meeting - if it is a General Meeting of Members**

After providing the full report to members it must be presented to a general meeting of members. For simplicity this is referred to as the *second meeting*.

Your reporting unit must always allow a minimum of 21 days for members to receive the full report before presenting it to a general meeting of members (s265(5)). The purpose of the interval is to enable the members to have time to consider the report and, if they wish, to attend the second meeting to discuss it.

If the rules of the organisation permit a general meeting to be a series of meetings held at different locations, the full report may be presented to such a series of meetings. In this case the 'date' of the general meeting is taken to be the date of the last meeting in the series (see s266(2)).

### **The Second Meeting - if it is a Committee of Management Meeting**

If the rules of your organisation contain a provision that allows up to 5% of members to demand a general meeting to be held consider the report (see s266(3)), it is permissible to present the report directly to a Committee of Management meeting.

### **Lodge full report within 14 days of meeting**

You must lodge a copy of the full report and any concise report in the Industrial Registry within 14 days of the second meeting. For your convenience you are encouraged to lodge the material electronically (see eFiling Tab at [www.airc.gov.au](http://www.airc.gov.au)).



The Secretary (or another officer appropriately authorised under the rules of the organisation) must *certify* that the full report is a copy of the one provided to members and presented to the second meeting and provide the date of the meeting (a sample certification for illustrative purposes is at *Attachment D*).

When we receive your return we will check that it includes the information you must provide your members and that you have provided it to them correctly.

### **Complying with time limits**

This letter has outlined some of the steps in preparing and lodging your return. Many of the steps must be completed within fixed time limits.

Failure to complete them in time could make your reporting unit or its officers liable to financial or "civil penalties".

### **Extensions of Time**

We appreciate that sometimes circumstances beyond your reporting unit's control may delay completion of a financial return. If you believe your reporting unit is going to be unable to meet a time limit tell us as soon as you know. We can advise you if the step is one for which you may apply under RAO to the Industrial Registrar for extra time to complete. The maximum extra time allowed can be no more than one month.

### **Contact the Registry**

We encourage you to contact the Registry on (02) 8374 6618 or by e-mail at [belinda.penna@air.gov.au](mailto:belinda.penna@air.gov.au) as early as possible if you believe preparation or lodgment of your return will be delayed or if you have any queries. We can offer you advice on procedures but we cannot give you legal or accounting advice.

Yours sincerely



For Deputy Industrial Registrar...  
22 January 2008

TIMELINE/ PLANNER

Financial reporting period ending:	/ /	
<b>FIRST MEETING:</b> Prepare General Purpose Financial Report (including Committee of Management Statement in accordance with C of M resolution) and Operating Report - s253(1), s254(1)	/ /	as soon as practicable after end of financial year
Auditor's Report prepared and signed and given to the Reporting Unit - s257	/ /	within a reasonable time of having received the GPFR
Provide full report free of charge to members.  (a) if the report is to be presented before a General Meeting (which must be held within 6 months after the end of the financial year), the report must be provided to members 21 days before the General Meeting, or  (b) in any other case including where the report is presented to a Committee of Management meeting, the report must be provided to members within 5 months of end of financial year.  <i>(obligation to provide full report may be discharged by provision of a concise report s265(1))</i>	/ /	
<b>SECOND MEETING:</b> Present full report to:  (a) General Meeting of Members - s266 (1),(2), or  (b) where rules of organisation allow, a Committee of Management meeting - s266 (3)	/ /	within 6 months of end of financial year  within 6 months of end of financial year
Lodge full report (including any concise report) in the Industrial Registry together with secretary's certificate (or other officer authorised by the rules of the organisation) - s268	/ /	within 14 days of meeting

**Note:** The legislation makes limited provision for extensions of time concerning the provision of the full report to members and the presentation of the full report to a general meeting etc however the maximum extra time allowed can be no more than one month.

**Documents Checklist**

You can use this checklist as soon as possible after the financial year ends to ensure you have all the necessary documents prepared and that those documents contain all information required by RAO.

You can also use this checklist to ensure all documents in your financial return are complete before lodging them in the Registry.

No	Document	✓
<b>1</b>	<b>General Purpose Financial Report</b>	
	Does the report contain a Profit and Loss Statement?	
	Does the report contain a Balance Sheet?	
	Does the report contain a Statement of Cash Flows?	
	Does the report contain notes to the financial statements as required by AAS and the reporting guidelines?	
	Does the report contain all other information required by the reporting guidelines?	
<b>2</b>	<b>Committee of Management Statement</b>	
	Is the statement signed by the officer responsible for undertaking functions necessary to enable the reporting unit to comply with RAO?	
	Is the statement dated?	
	Is the statement in accordance with a resolution of the committee?	
	Does the statement specify the date of the resolution?	
	Does the statement contain declarations required by the reporting guidelines?	
	Does the statement contain declarations relating to any recovery of wages activity?	
<b>3</b>	<b>Auditor's Report</b>	
	Is the Report dated and signed by the auditor?	
	Is the name of the auditor clear?	
	Are the qualifications of the auditor on the report?	
	Has the auditor expressed an opinion on all matters required?	
<b>4</b>	<b>Operating Report</b>	
	Is the report signed and dated?	
	Does the report provide the number of members?	
	Does the report provide the number of employees?	
	Does the report contain a review of principal activities?	
	Does the report give details of significant changes?	
	Does the report give details of right of members to resign?	
	Does the report give details of superannuation trustees?	
	Does the report give details of membership of the committee of management?	
<b>5</b>	<b>Concise report*</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Certificate of Secretary or other Authorised Officer</b>	
	Is the certificate signed and dated?	
	Is the signatory the secretary or another officer authorised to sign the certificate?	
	Is the date that the report was provided to members stated?	
	Is the date of the Second Meeting at which the report was presented stated?	
	Does the certificate state that the documents are copies of those provided to members?	
	Does the certificate state that the documents are copies of those presented to the Second Meeting?	

\* This is an optional way of providing documents to members (see RAO s265(3) and RAO Reg. 161).

**Committee Of Management Statement**

On \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ [date of meeting] the Committee of Management of \_\_\_\_\_ [name of reporting unit] passed the following resolution in relation to the general purpose financial report (GPFR) of the reporting unit for the financial year ended \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ [date]:

The Committee of Management declares in relation to the GPFR that in its opinion:

- (a) the financial statements and notes comply\* with the Australian Accounting Standards;
- (b) the financial statements and notes comply\* with the reporting guidelines of the Industrial Registrar;
- (c) the financial statements and notes give a true and fair view\* of the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the reporting unit for the financial year to which they relate;
- (d) there are reasonable grounds\* to believe that the reporting unit will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;
- (e) during the financial year to which the GPFR relates and since the end of that year:
  - (i) meetings of the committee of management were held\* in accordance with the rules of the organisation including the rules of a branch concerned; and
  - (ii) the financial affairs of the reporting unit have been\* managed in accordance with the rules of the organisation including the rules of a branch concerned; and
  - (iii) the financial records of the reporting unit have been\* kept and maintained in accordance with the RAO Schedule and the RAO Regulations; and
  - #(iv) where the organisation consists of 2 or more reporting units, the financial records of the reporting unit have been\* kept, as far as practicable, in a consistent manner to each of the other reporting units of the organisation; and
  - #(v) the information sought in any request of a member of the reporting unit or a Registrar duly made under section 272 of the RAO Schedule has been\* furnished to the member or Registrar; and
  - #(vi) there has been\* compliance with any order for inspection of financial records made by the Commission under section 273 of the RAO Schedule.

*[Add the following if any recovery of wages activity has been undertaken during the financial year]*

- (f) in relation to recovery of wages activity:
  - (i) the financial report on recovery of wages activity has been fairly and accurately prepared in accordance with the requirements of the reporting guidelines of the Industrial Registrar; and
  - (ii) the committee of management caused the auditor to include in the scope of the audit required under subsection 257(1) of the RAO Schedule all recovery of wages activity by the reporting unit in which revenues had been derived for the financial year in respect of such activity; and
  - (iii) no fees or reimbursements of expenses in relation to recovery of wages activity or donations or other contributions were deducted from moneys recovered from employers on behalf of workers other than reported in the financial report on recovery of wages activity and the notes to the financial statements; and
  - (iv) that prior to engaging in any recovery of wages activity, the organization has disclosed to members by way of a written policy all fees to be charged or reimbursement of expenses required for recovery of wages activity, and any likely request for donations or other contributions in acting for a worker in recovery of wages activity; and

- (v) no fees or reimbursements of expenses in relation to recovery of wages activity or donations or other contributions were deducted from moneys recovered from employers on behalf of workers until distributions of recovered money were made to the workers.

For Committee of Management: \_\_\_\_\_ [*name of designated officer per section 243 of the RAO Schedule*]

Title of Office held:

Signature:

Date:

\* *Where compliance or full compliance has not been attained - set out details of non compliance instead.*

# *Where not relevant these may be modified accordingly (e.g. in (vi) "No orders have been made by the Commission under section 273 of the RAO Schedule during the period."*

**Certificate of Secretary or other Authorised Officer**<sup>1</sup>

s268 of Schedule 1B *Workplace Relations Act 1996*

I *[name]* being the *[title of office]* of the *[name of the organisation]* certify:

- that the documents lodged herewith are copies of the full report, *[and the concise report]*<sup>2</sup>, referred to in s268 of the RAO Schedule; and
- that the *[full report OR concise report]*<sup>3</sup>, was provided to members on *[insert date]*; and
- that the full report was presented to *[a general meeting of members OR the last of a series of general meetings of members OR a meeting of the committee of management]*<sup>3</sup> of the reporting unit on *[insert date]*; in accordance with section 266 of the RAO Schedule.

Signature

Date:

<sup>1</sup>*RAO regulation 162 prescribes the designated officer for the purpose of RAO schedule s268 as:*

(a) the secretary; or

(b) an officer of the organisation other than the secretary who is authorised by the organisation or by the rules of the organisation to sign the certificate mentioned in that paragraph.

<sup>2</sup>*Only applicable where a concise report is provided to members*

<sup>3</sup>*Insert whichever is applicable*