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CONSTRUCTION, FORESTRY, MARITIME EMPLOYEES' UNION (CFMEU)
AND
MCCONNELL DOWELL CONSTRUCTORS PTY LTD (MCCONNELL DOWELL)

RE. MELBOURNE AIRPORT RAIL LINK PROJECT - ALLEGED
UNDERPAYMENT OF SITE ALLOWANCE

005-2026

25 MARCH 2026

STATEMENT

[1] The CFMEU notified a dispute on 20 March 2026 concerning an alleged underpayment of site allowance by McConnell Dowell in relation to works that the CFMEU claim form part of the Melbourne Airport Rail Project, pursuant to the *McConnell Dowell Constructors (Aust) Pty Ltd and the CFMEU (Victorian Construction and General Division) Major Civil Contractor Enterprise Agreement 2020-2023* (the Agreement).

[2] The Panel convened a video Conference of the parties on 25 March 2023.

[3] There is no dispute that the Agreement has application to the matter and that the dispute is properly before the Panel in accordance with the Agreement.

[4] Both parties confirmed that they were in dispute over the matter and sought that the Panel exercise its jurisdiction to determine the matter pursuant to the provisions of Appendix C of the Agreement.

[5] McConnell Dowell is presently undertaking works as part of an Alliance which has been awarded works by the Victorian State Government, variously referred to as *Melbourne Airport Rail Stage 1: West Footscray to Albion Rail Upgrade*. McConnell Dowell is performing what are referred to as Enabling Works, involving relocation of utilities in an area variously referred to as the proposed

Sunshine Station superhub (source bigbuild.vic.gov.au). The relevant works commenced in January 2026.

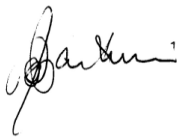
[6] For the purposes of the Appendix C of the Agreement it is necessary for the Panel to determine the scope of works and Project Value that properly can be considered for the purposes of setting a site allowance for the relevant works.

[7] In essence the question that the Panel is being required to determine in this matter is whether or not the relevant works form part of the Melbourne Airport Rail Project or not, and what should be the site allowance applicable.

[8] The parties acknowledge that the Panel will be assisted in its considerations by seeking information from the State as to what is included in the relevant Project(s), upon which the parties would seek to comment, from which the Panel can make its determination for the purposes of the Agreement.

[9] Accordingly the Panel will immediately seek relevant information from the State through Victorian Infrastructure Development Authority (VIDA) to assist it in this matter.

[10] The Panel will advise the parties further as to the next steps in this matter. The matter is adjourned for these purposes.



Peter Parkinson
Chairman



Tony Cordier
Panel Member



Adrian Ziccone
Panel Member