



Union heavy in 'scab' furore

Peter Rolfe, Stephen Drill, Emily Portelli and Chris Gillett

A CFMEU official banned by the Supreme Court from the Grocon Emporium site faces police investigation after being observed filming employees returning to work.

Industry sources said the images could be used to create a "scab sheet" identifying the workers, in an attempt to intimidate them.

Victorian CFMEU vice-president Shaun Reardon — one of eight union heavyweights named in court proceedings this week — recorded images of Grocon staff as police ushered them from a bus back to work yesterday.

Commander Rick Nugent said Victoria Police would review media footage and

investigate whether any offences had been committed.

The State Government last night condemned any such action.

A spokesman for Attorney-General Robert Clark, James Copsey, said intimidation would not be tolerated. "All Victorians should be able to go to work safely without being threatened or intimidated in this way," he said.

Grocon workers were called scabs as they crossed the illegal blockade under police protection yesterday, 53 of them getting on site.

The workers released an open letter, criticising the union for making them the targets of "abuse, threats and intimidation".

The union was accused of creating "scab sheets" at the beginning of the dispute, naming workers

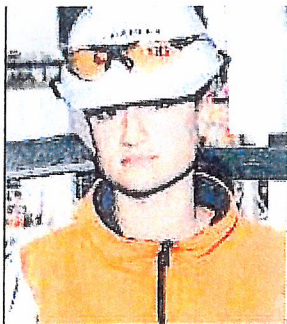
loyal to Grocon — a claim the union denied.

Grocon chief executive Daniel Grollo said it was "awful from a basic humanity point of view" that his workers were being called scabs. "To see them victimised and intimidated like that is extremely disappointing," he said.

A Grocon traffic controller, Charlet, who did not want her surname used, said workers felt bullied.

"Most of us are union members, so for them to call us scabs and for us not to be able to go to work, I feel I don't want to be in the union any more. And I'm not going to be in the union any more," she said.

"I think a lot of people are hurt. We're the members and they're doing this to us as well."



Upset: Charlet feels bullied



Protection: Police line up to usher workers in to the Grocon construction site. Picture: DERRICK DEN HOLLANDER

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Tabled by: *Senator Bridget McKenzie*