

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

3 March 2020

### **Protestors convicted – plead guilty to damaging mine infrastructure**

Serial protestors Reuben Michael Anstee of Brisbane and Amy Francis Booth of Victoria pleaded guilty and were convicted in the Clermont Magistrate's Court today to charges of contravening a police direction, unlawful trespass and unlawfully damaging mine infrastructure.

The pair trespassed on the Carmichael Mine site on 7 August 2019 and climbed two poles, which were anchored to various items of mining equipment. This prevented the equipment from being used until the pair were removed and resulted in approximately \$12,748 in direct damages.

While the Queensland Police Service today sought a suspended sentence of imprisonment or probation, Magistrate Robert Walker fined the pair \$1,500 each. This was wholly deferred to the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER) and no conviction was recorded.

In sentencing, Magistrate Walker said that protest activity was disruptive towards lawful operations of mining businesses.

He said the protestors behavior posed a range of other difficulties, such as jeopardising their personal safety, as well as the safety of others who attended the scene.

He said that we live in a society where we are lucky to be free to lawfully express opinions, however the actions that the pair chose were not in the category of lawfully expressed opinions. Adding, the issues that prompted them to take protest action were already prominent in public debate, without them travelling all the way to Central Queensland and putting themselves on a mono pole.

Reuben Michael Anstee is a 28 year old unemployed fitter and turner.

Amy Francis Booth is a 25 year old unemployed welfare recipient with no fixed address and lives in a caravan. She is a spokesperson for Frontline Action on Coal and in October 2019 was pictured in The Australian newspaper interrupting and being removed from the International Mining and Resources Conference in Melbourne.

Magistrate Walker considered the unemployed status of each offender in determining the amount each was fined.

The pair were represented by criminal defence solicitor Daniel Bakewell from the Environmental Defenders Office. He has recently relocated from Melbourne to Cairns.

Magistrate Walker refused an application by the offenders to release them from further civil proceedings. Accordingly, we are now considering our legal options to recover the costs associated with this dangerous and illegal activity.

For further information contact:

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We are also considering whether to pursue this matter further with the Mines Inspectorate and the Industrial Court of Queensland, as we will not compromise on safety or permit illegal activity on our Mine Lease.

ENDS

**Editor notes:**

- Photographs of the protest and the pair at court this morning are attached and information below.
- The maximum penalty for unlawfully interfering with mining infrastructure is 7 years prison.
- The maximum penalty for unlawful trespass is 1 year prison, or fine of [20 penalty points](#).
- The maximum penalty for contravening direction of police is a fine or a [maximum of 40 penalty points](#).

**Photographs:**

Photograph 1: Illegal trespass – protestor damages mine infrastructure at the Carmichael Mine site in August 2019

Photograph 2: Guilty plea – protestor suspends themselves from mono pole at the Carmichael Mine site in August 2019

Photograph 3: Protestors convicted – Michael Anstee and Amy Francis Booth leave Clermont Magistrate’s Court today after pleading guilty to charges of contravening a police direction, unlawful trespass and unlawfully damaging mine infrastructure.