

PILBARA STRIKE

MINING WORKERS VOTE A FIRST THIS CENTURY



ADRIAN RAUSO

Mining workers have agreed to strike action in the Pilbara for the first time this century as unions emboldened by Anthony Albanese's IR laws demand big pay rises.

Thirty-nine of 42 employees across BHP's high-voltage network at its WA iron ore mines have taken the historic step of voting for protected industrial action, according to the Electrical Trades Union.

Work stoppages "lasting between 15 minutes and 48 hours" are being threatened unless BHP caves in to the demands.

Such a stoppage would be the first on a WA mine in more than three decades. Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA chief executive Aaron Morey called the move a "dangerous turn for the Pilbara".

Unions have been increasingly emboldened by the Labor Government's changes to industrial relations laws, particularly lax rules around "right of entry" requests.

The ETU is demanding significant pay rises and a large catalogue of extra allowances, which the CME has estimated would lead to salaries of about \$400,000 per worker.

The demands include 200 per cent penalty rates for overtime and 300 per cent for public holiday work.

They also want annual allowances of \$20,000 for night shift work and \$7000 for working in hot weather.

BHP said it had "strong contingency plans in place" to continue operations in the event of union "disruptions".

FULL REPORT PAGE 9

EDITORIAL

It seems like we are trapped in a time warp. Already this week we had warnings that the oil crisis flowing from war in the Middle East is delivering a bigger oil shock than we experienced in the 1970s.

And now we seem headed back to the bad old days of industrial relations in the 1970s and 1980s, when union militancy in the mining sector smashed productivity and our reputation as a stable and reliable trading partner.

The Albanese Government has built the union handbrake into the system. It must release it.

The West Australian

INFLATION 'HIGHER FOR LONGER' WORLD WARNED OF STEEP CRUDE OIL RECESSION

Fuel shortages spread across the nation

STEPHEN JOHNSON

Pressure is on the Federal Government to start rationing fuel supplies as hundreds of service stations around the country report petrol or diesel shortages.

One Nation MP Barnaby Joyce said Anthony Albanese must resort to rationing under the Liquid Fuels Emergency Act. In response to the empty bowlers, the Prime Minister will hold a second National Cabinet with premiers and chief ministers next week.

FULL REPORTS PAGES 4-5



PM CALLS CRISIS CABINET

STEPHEN JOHNSON

Federal Treasurer Jim Chalmers has made a grim admission that prices across the economy will stay higher for longer because of the conflict in the Middle East.

His doomsday warning comes as new figures show West Australians are being hit the hardest by soaring inflation, while some businesses say the catastrophic disruption could be the final nail in their coffin.

Dr Chalmers said on Wednesday the US-Iran war would have a prolonged impact on the country, having earlier told industry leaders it could be as bad as COVID.

"The inflationary pressures from the war in the Middle East are

MEAT, FRUIT, VEGETABLES PRICES SOAR

very substantial and we expect to see the consequences of that war push up inflation higher for longer in our economy," he said.

As everyday households struggle to make ends meet as prices increase across the board — which could include more mortgage pain with future rate rises tipped — businesses in WA have also opened up about the severe effect of the conflict, with nearly every single one stating that they had felt the pinch of higher supplier costs.

REPORT PAGES 4-5