

**ATTENTION: News Editors, Chiefs of Staff, court reporters  
and political reporters**

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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

### **‘Sanga-gate’ workers’ reinstatement welcomed**

Maurice Blackburn Lawyers welcomes the reinstatement of two Geelong City Council workers who were sacked after accepting steak sandwiches for fixing some pot holes outside a local sports club.

Employment and Industrial Law Principal Josh Bornstein, who represented the two Australian Services Union members, said it was a just outcome for an issue that had been blown out of proportion.

“Mick Van Beek and Peter Anderson had been asked by the club to fill in a few pot holes in a disabled car park. They used hot mix that would have otherwise ended up in the tip,” Mr Bornstein said.

“The two men were putting rate-payer’s money to best use by not wasting the hot mix.

“Unfortunately, the council stepped in eight months later and sacked the workers for conducting unscheduled work and accepting the steak sandwiches as payment.

Mr Bornstein welcomed the role played by Fair Work Australia in assisting all parties to move to a resolution of all matters. The parties spent much of Wednesday 12 August locked in conciliation conducted by the tribunal.

“Industrial tribunals have played a very valuable role in Australia and after a difficult era under Workchoices, I expect to see FWA play a greater and more constructive role under the Fair Work Act,” Mr Bornstein said.

The tribunal also ordered the striking council workers to return to work. Mr Van Beek and Mr Anderson’s service with the council will be treated as uninterrupted so their entitlements such as superannuation and annual leave are not affected.

***For more information please contact Katie Findley on 0427 724 771.***