

Extract from Report by Des Moore on HR Nicholls Society Conference in Brisbane, May 2014

“The need for law and order to be applied was also emphasised by former Royal Commissioner in NSW, Roger Gyles, who reported to the Greiner government in 1992. That government established a body to ensure the law was applied in the NSW building industry. Of particular importance was the direct involvement of police in the operation of that body (police forces are generally reluctant to prevent disruptive action by unions). The Greiner body, however, succeeded in moving NSW building costs down below those in other states – until, that is, Carr became Premier and dissolved the body.

Gyles also expressed the view that the ABCC has an inadequate structure that needs to be changed if it is to be effective in dealing with the intimidation approach adopted by building unions and that action needed to be taken to reduce collusion between unions and major contractors (see also attachment on Gyles). He also offered some thoughts about what the Heydon Royal Commission might examine: the RC might find it useful to talk to Gyles.