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Corrigan maintains the rage

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Waterfront warrior Chris Corrigan has blasted a call by new union boss Sally McManus to break “unjust” laws and said the industrial umpire, the Fair Work Commission, should be scrapped.

The outgoing chairman of Qube Logistics said the comments by Ms McManus, the new secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions, were “outrageous” and would lead to a lawless society. When she was elected last month, Ms McManus said industrial laws were wrong. “When it’s (the law) unjust, I don’t think there’s a problem with breaking it,” she said.

Mr Corrigan, who, as chairman of Patrick Stevedores in the late 1990s, fought a bitter battle — with the help of the federal government and National Farmers Federation — to break union influence on the docks, said the comments were “frankly outrageous” and warned of a swing back to more union influence.

“If we advocate that you are really advocating for a lawless society and I can’t imagine why anybody would want to go back to a lawless society,” Mr Corrigan told the Sky New show Ticky.

“We may be going into one of those cycles where they (unions) are a little stronger and then people work out it is not good and it will go back again.” Mr Corrigan led a long-running battle to take back control of Patrick through a \$10 billion takeover bid for Asciano. It succeeded last year and he was faced with having to complete a new industrial agreement with his old adversary, the Maritime Union of Australia.

Mr Corrigan backed a finding last month to cut Sunday penalty rates and said the opposition to it was an appeal to the “heartstrings” and did not tell the whole story.

“Which is that people like to get a meal or a coffee on Sunday and they don’t like to pay three times the price for it,” he said.

His comments came as Qube begins work on its \$1bn **Moorebank intermodal** freight facility southwest of Sydney.

Mr Corrigan said the project would be an asset for both Sydney and the bush because it planned to move shipping containers off the roads and out of Port Botany, which would run out of room to accommodate them. But the project — in partnership with the federal government — has taken 17 years to get to this stage, during which time Switzerland, where he now lives, has been able to dig a north-south tunnel through the Alps.

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