THE FUTURE OF MANUAl LABOUR
Commercial Construction Test Case
30 STORIES IN 15 DAYS
Video clip - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwvmru5JmXk
THINGS I NOTICED

50% LESS MANUAL LABOUR
PREFABRICATION
PROCESS INNOVATION

&

IT’S HAPPENING NOW

BUT NOT YET ON THIS SCALE IN AUSTRALIA
The market always takes care of itself.

When manual labour gets to a cost benefit tipping point, innovative solutions are embraced.

It’s ultimately replaced with:

1. Multi-skilled labour at reduced volumes
2. Knowledge labour – design, planning, BIM (Building Information Modelling)
THIS IS NOT NEW IN AUS!

- MINING
  - Autonomous mining trucks

- MANUFACTURING
  - Car manufacturing

CONSTRUCTION

IS NEXT
WHO HERE KNOWS THE COST OF A CARPENTER ON A UNION EBA IN BRISBANE?

$185,000 pa

55 HOUR WEEK
26 RDO’S NOT INCLUDING HEIGHT OR SITE ALLOWANCE

I wonder what our wonderful nurses, teachers, ambulance officers think of this?
SO WHERE IS THE TIPPING POINT IN COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR MANUAL LABOUR?

However, it will not be overnight.
CASE STUDY 1

BACK TO THE FUTURE: STEEL

WHY?

Offsite mechanised pre-fabrication replacing $145k pa manual workers

Significantly reduced cost through reduced industrial action
CASE STUDY 2
PRE FAB: STAND UP WALLS

WHY?

Same material cost but total cost reduced due to speed, safety and less industrial trouble
CASE STUDY 3

MODULAR: PLUG AND PLAY

Floating in from China for half the price of building on site with manual labour

WHY DO IT HERE?
LIKE IN MANY OTHER “OLD AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES”,
THERE WILL BE NO MANUAL LABOUR

HOWEVER

Like in many other “old Australian Industries”, there will be considerable less and;

It will be multi-skilled supplemented by knowledge workers – designers, innovators, BIM
1. The market always takes care of itself
2. As it has in many other Australian industries…
3. ….when manual labour gets to a cost benefit tipping point, innovative solutions are embraced
4. It’s happening in construction now
5. It’s in its infancy
6. But it is only going to accelerate
7. The successful companies of the future are embracing it now
How many of us have our head buried in the sand pretending it's not going to happen to our industry?