



6 April, 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Education and Employment Committees
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

Fair Work Amendment (Repeal of 4 Yearly Reviews and Other Measures) Bill 2017

I write to express support for the submission of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (**ACTU**) to the inquiry in to the Fair Work Amendment (Repeal of 4 Yearly Reviews and Other Measures) Bill 2017 (**the Bill**).

The Bill addresses the matter of mandatory four yearly modern award reviews. Consensus exists amongst peak industrial bodies that the requirement to review every modern award on a four yearly basis is onerous. The Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (**AMWU**) supports the measures in the Bill which relieve the Commission of the mandatory requirement to conduct four yearly modern award reviews.

Our experience of the 4 Yearly Review of Modern Awards is that it has drawn heavily on our resources. The AMWU's National Research Centre (**NRC**) employs lawyers, industrial officers and support staff to advance the AMWU's interests by providing, amongst other key functions, industrial support to its officials and members. A considerable proportion of the NRC's work since 2014 has been directed to the resource intensive task of reviewing in excess of 40 modern awards in which we have an interest.

However, the 4 Yearly Review of Modern Awards should not be abolished unless there is a clear ability for Modern Awards to be varied by an application from unions to ensure they conform with community expectations about what is a fair and relevant Modern Award. We also support the ACTU submission that such an application need not be dealt with by a Full Bench as a default.

The Bill also addresses the matter of procedural requirements in relation to the approval of enterprise agreements. The procedural requirements with which the Bill is concerned are in place for good reason - to ensure compliance by employers with fundamental pre-requisites to fair agreement making. We do not support the dilution of their effectiveness.

Yours sincerely

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