

QON 1

Senator GROGAN: Has the industry applied for or considered industry labour agreements?

Mr Hampton: I'm not sure what you mean, but certainly not in our purview at AFPA.

Senator GROGAN: The industry labour agreements are specific agreements for a defined industry that has a skill shortage. They're utilised in dairy, fishing, meat, pork and various other areas. They're not something you've considered?

Mr Hampton: It's not something that our members have asked us to try to achieve for them. The companies that plant the trees are very small in number. There's only a small number of these big plantation companies in Australia, and they've tended to work through subcontractors to organise their own short-term labour forces.

RESPONSE:

AFPA has not been involved in any discussions regarding the creation of a forestry-specific industry labour agreement, and it is not something our members have asked us to pursue.

QON2

CHAIR: Would you be able to provide us with examples of attempts the industry has taken to satisfy labour or skill shortages through local initiatives? It was touched on by the CFMMEU on a number of occasions in their earlier evidence.

Mr Hampton: We'll have to take that on notice if that's okay.

RESPONSE

AFPA is aware that our forest industry employers always strive to source workers locally, and regularly undertake recruitment drives when looking to fill positions. They offer well-paying jobs, safe working environments and upskilling opportunities, which is why our forest industries have such high staff retention rates. If there was more time available, we could provide some more specific examples of local initiatives.

