



Electrical Trades Union of Australia

Proud to be Union

28 September 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee PO Box 6100
Parliament House Canberra ACT 2600

By email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Improving Accountability and Member Outcomes in Superannuation Measures No.2) Bill 2017

The Electrical Trades Union of Australia (ETU) is writing in support of the ACTU submission to the above inquiry. We believe that the legislation proposed will have an adverse impact in the operation of Industry Super in Australia.

ETU is a sponsoring organisation of a range of industry superannuation funds including Energy Super and CBUS and our members have a vested interest in the success of these funds and indeed, all Industry Super Funds.

ETU has members employed because Industry Super Funds have invested in projects all around Australia. We all have a stake in the viability and continuing success of superannuation in Australia.

Superannuation has been recognised as an industrial matter for some 30 years, and industrial matters afford the right for workers to negotiate collectively. This legislation seeks to strip the right for collective negotiation by workers in this space.

Legislation should not limit or curtail this right.

The ETU negotiates industrial outcomes to suit our industries. By negotiating a collective fund, the ETU has been able to ensure compliance with the Superannuation Guarantee. We also believe that this practice benefits good employers by easing administrative burden.

The ETU believes it is intuitively obvious that choice of fund arrangements could be manipulated to assist an unscrupulous employer to avoid paying the Superannuation Guarantee. If a single fund applies at a vulnerable workplace, then the ability to verify payments at legislatively prescribed levels is significantly easier to monitor, and workers don't lose out.

As it stands now, the theft of workers entitlements including superannuation is already at unprecedented levels. Australia cannot afford for this to become worse.

ETU welcomes the opportunity to comment further.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Wright
Acting Divisional Secretary