



29 February 2008

Mr John Carter
Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
eet.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sir,

RE: INQUIRY INTO THE WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (TRANSITION TO FORWARD WITH FAIRNESS) BILL 2008

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia ("APESMA") welcomes the introduction of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008.

This legislation contains a number of positive aspects including the abolition of Australian Workplace Agreements; the introduction of a stronger no-disadvantage test; the abolition from 1 January 2010 of individual statutory agreements; and the strengthening of the award safety net through award modernisation.

Whilst broadly supportive of the bill, APESMA supports the submission that has been made by the ACTU which identifies areas where improvements to the legislation could be made.

The Association recognises the limited nature of the legislation before parliament and notes that there are many issues that will need to be resolved prior to the new industrial relations system coming into effect on 1 January 2010.

These issues include amongst others:

- The form and content of the proposed National Employment Standards;
- The extent of coverage of employees under modern awards;
- Collective Bargaining including Union Recognition and Good Faith Bargaining; and
- Unfair and Unlawful Termination.

In this regard APESMA will avail itself of opportunities to contribute to the debate when further legislation is introduced.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Butler".

MICHAEL BUTLER
Acting Executive Director, Industrial Relations

Professionals together

