



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Win For Miners: New Mining Industry Award**

The peak national employer body representing Australia's resources sector, the Australian Mines and Metals Association (AMMA) has welcomed today's release by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) of the modern mining industry award.

"Putting to one side our ongoing concerns about many aspects of the proposed Fair Work legislation, the mining industry modern award may indeed be a workable alternative to an AWA, albeit without protection from industrial action or entry to worksites from uninvited unions," said AMMA Chief Executive Steve Knott.

In the face of falling commodity prices and the global financial crisis, the decision handed down by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on the mining award will give some hope to miners across the country.

Whilst a small number of provisions proposed by AMMA have been rejected or modified, the award released today will assist the majority of current work practices in the mining sector to continue. For example, the capacity to average hours of work over a 26 week period is most welcome.

"It would appear the AIRC has come very close to balancing the interests of employers and employees in creating the modern mining industry award," said Mr Knott.

However, one significant area where AMMA has ongoing concerns is the decision to not allow the cashing out of annual leave. In particular, this will adversely affect the industry's ability to continue even-time rosters in the drilling and exploration sector.

"AMMA will be approaching the Deputy Prime Minister to request an alteration of the existing Award Modernisation Request to require the AIRC to provide additional flexibility with respect to annual leave."

Whilst AMMA has welcomed today's release of the new mining industry award the resources sector continues to raise serious concerns in relation to the Government's proposed Fair Work Legislation which will significantly increase union rights and union transaction costs if passed in its current form.

AMMA is awaiting the release of the modern exposure draft awards for the Maritime, Hydrocarbon, Hospitality and Agricultural industries to determine if similar flexibilities can be retained.

**Media Contact:** Minna Knight 0407 636 153 or [minna.knight@amma.org.au](mailto:minna.knight@amma.org.au)

*AMMA wishes the media a safe and relaxing festive season.*