



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Mines and Metals Association

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Policy Scorecard to Assist Industry in Evaluating IR Policies

The Australian Mines and Metals Association (AMMA) has today released the AMMA Workplace Relations Policy Scorecard. Using criteria which has been divided into seven broad policy areas the scorecard will provide a clear picture of how the content of the workplace relations policies of political parties vying for Government relate to the needs and expectations of the resources sector.

The AMMA Workplace Relations Policy Scorecard uses criteria that have been grouped into seven broad policy areas:

• National regulatory framework	• Industrial action and compliance
• Minimum standards and awards	• Unfair dismissal
• Agreement making	• Union right of entry
• Agreement processing	

AMMA Chief Executive, Steve Knott, stated "The resources sector is seeking for the continuation of a national workplace relations system underpinned by a series of core statutory minima that provides a framework allowing employers and employees the ability to customise their working arrangements to suit their needs." "Not surprisingly a key feature of the criteria in this scorecard is the retention of both union and non-union collective agreements, as well as Greenfields and individual statutory agreements."

Mr Knott said "A key feature of a modern workplace relations system will be the reduction of the level of 'red tape' faced by business. The existing agreement processing system saved 39,500 working days which would have otherwise been spent in the corridors of the Industrial Relations Commission waiting for the rubber stamp of approval to be applied."

In the 1980's Australia had difficulty in convincing overseas buyers that it had the capacity to deliver; this position has been reversed with the 'rule of the jungle' being replaced by the 'rule of law'. This is no accident, and laws that allow unlawful industrial behaviour to be stopped promptly and (where appropriate) penalised should remain. The ABCC and ACCC play a crucial role in this process.

"Large employers are still subject to unmeritorious unfair dismissal claims and should be able to recover the cost of such action. Speculative claims in the hope of financial compensation may encourage extortion that has a primary focus of lining the pockets of former employees and lawyers."

Mr Knott stated "Employees in the resources sector have voted with their feet with unions representing less than one in six individuals. Australia's workplace laws should not penalise the majority of Australians who are not in a union and should ensure that unions, like any other service provider, not have the right to enter any workplace uninvited."

AMMA and the resources sector look forward to the release of the detailed workplace relations policies from all political parties in a timeframe that allows for proper consideration before the election. AMMA looks forward to evaluating these policies against the criteria contained in our scorecard.

To view the AMMA Workplace Policy Scorecard, please follow this link:

http://www.amma.org.au/home/publications/ammaworkplacereationsscorecard_24april2007.pdf

For further comments please contact

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