

## **AMMA gives WorkChoices 10/10**

Acting CEO Simon Billing welcomed the release of the details of the Commonwealth Government's Workplace Relations Policy today and said, *"WorkChoices represents a move away from short term workplace policy making and provides a system which will 'future proof' Australian Business and provide the flexibility necessary to compete in a global market"*

### **A unitary system**

AMMA has long advocated the benefits of a simpler national system of industrial regulation. *'WorkChoices delivers a simpler national system for corporate Australia and will break the gridlock imposed by having six competing industrial relations systems in Australia.'*

We encourage State Governments to adopt the Victorian approach, cede their industrial powers and cooperatively embrace a national approach.'

### **Agreement making**

Employers in the mining sector have a close relationship with their employees which has been demonstrated by the growth in direct employment relationships since 1996. *'Workplace Choices with its simple system of minimum standards and more efficient agreement processing arrangements will further facilitate and reduce the transaction costs of agreement making.'*

Access to long term agreements has been long sought by participants in major infrastructure projects which typically last more than the current 3 year limit *'WorkChoices by providing 5 year agreements will encourage further infrastructure development.'*

The *'WorkChoices agreement reforms will enhance the productivity and profitability of the mining sector and facilitate increased employment and remuneration.'*

### **Industrial Action**

Unlawful industrial action has always been a concern to the mining sector, particularly prevalent in construction; unlawful industrial action causes delays, increased costs and reduces confidence in the capacity of Australian business to 'deliver the goods'. *'WorkChoices increases the focus on the Commission responding rapidly to unlawful industrial action, Ministerial action where essential services are involved, and enhanced access to civil remedies. This will ensure that a principle of 'a deal is a deal' returns to the industrial landscape .*

### **Overall**

Using a score card approach 'WorkChoices get a 10/10 from the Australian Resources Sector.'

*For Further Comment Contact*

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