

From: ACN Orchards Admin [mailto:admin@acnorchards.com.au]
Sent: Wednesday, 29 August 2018 4:10 PM
To: Chambers - Kovacic DP
Subject: Re: AM2014/196 and 2017/197 - Casual and Part-Time Employment – Horticulture

Dear Deputy President Kovacic,

My name is Nick Parris and I am the owner of A.C.N. Orchards in Bunbartha, Victoria. I wish to express my concerns regarding the FWA case: AM2014/196 and 2017/197 - Casual and Part-Time Employment – Horticulture

In our industry we are price takers, our costs are continuously going up and our suppliers/customers are continuously pushing their higher prices on to us. The prices that we have been receiving for our products for the past 3 years have been record lows – we are getting less than the cost of growing. Now we are being told that we might have to pay up to 175% or 225% of wages and we can't pass these extra costs on to anybody.

Finding employees for the last couple of years has been very challenging. If it wasn't for foreign workers we would not be getting our crops off and produce packed. They are quite happy to work the extra hours at the casual rate. One option is to double our staff to reduce hours to the 304 in 8 weeks, however this is probably impossible, one reason being there is not enough people wanting to work in our industry. They will probably will look elsewhere for better money. There will also be extra administration costs to us in monitoring hours worked and the necessary pay rates as well as hiring extra staff.

In conclusion I would just like you to seriously think about your decisions because what you are considering will be detrimental to our industry.

Regards
Nick Parris



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