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30 July 2016

Deputy President Gostencnik
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Deputy President,

Re. AM2016/14 Training Costs

We refer to the above matter and a notice of listing issued by the Fair Work Commission (**Commission**) on 20 July 2016. We write in respect of three issues arising from that listing.

Firstly, the Australian Industry Group's (**Ai Group**) claim in respect of training costs relates to:

- the *Manufacturing and Associated Industries and Occupations Award 2010 (Manufacturing Award)*,
- the *Graphic Arts, Printing and Publishing Award 2010*; and
- the *Food, Beverage and Tobacco Manufacturing Award 2010*.

We note, however that the notice of listing refers only to the Manufacturing Award and has not been uploaded to those parts of the Commission's website concerning the review of the remaining two awards.

Ai Group respectfully requests that our claim in respect of the aforementioned awards be heard together. We had understood from remarks made by His Honour Justice Ross, during proceedings on 13 May 2016 that the Commission intended to deal with the claim in this way (see PN23 of the transcript). No interested party present raised any opposition to that proposition.

As will be evident from the submissions we have filed in support of our claim on 17 June 2016, the variation sought to each of the awards give rise to similar considerations. We also anticipate that certain interested parties will seek to oppose our claim in respect of more than one of the above awards. In our view, hearing the claim jointly will facilitate the efficient and timely progress of these matters.

Secondly, we respectfully request that the hearing be relisted in Sydney given the location of the majority of parties with an interest in our claim.

Thirdly, Ai Group has not sought to call witness evidence in support of our claim. We do not anticipate that three days of hearings will be necessary. We suggest that the matter be called on for mention during the week commencing 22 August 2016 for the purposes of discussing whether the unions' material in reply includes evidence from witnesses that any party seeks to cross-examine and the possible duration of the hearing.

We notified the AMWU, AWU, CFMEU – Construction and General Division, CEPU, NUW and United Voice of our intention to write to the Commission and sought their views in respect of each of the above matters. Regrettably, we have not received any advice from these unions and accordingly, we are not in a position to inform the Commission of their position. We understand that Business SA, ABI and the NSW Business Chamber support our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Smith
Head of National Workplace Relations Policy