

PRESIDENT

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bruce Morgan

26 February 2020

Fair Work Commission

Email: amod@fwc.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Fair Work Decision (2019) FWCFB 7603

Country Press Australia (CPA) is the representative employer body for over 140 independent, largely regional newspapers throughout many states in Australia.

CPA negotiates an Enterprise Agreement with the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) on behalf of its members. This Agreement is underpinned by the *Journalists Published Media Award 2010*.

As part of the commencement of negotiations about a new Agreement, we recently received advice from the MEAA about a Fair Work Commission Decision (2019) FWCFB 7603, concerning this Award.

The hearing regarding this matter was held on 8 August 2019 with a decision published on 20 November 2019.

Having now read the decision, we note the participation of various parties to this award being heard at, and presenting submissions to this review. These parties were also invited to provide further written submissions in response to this provisional view within 21 days of the decision. Our records indicate CPA was not contacted or consulted regarding this matter.

At this stage, we are not aware if a final decision on this matter has been published.

As a party to the current Award, and an active participant in the negotiations and deliberations surrounding the establishment of the Modern Award framework for our industry, CPA are deeply concerned about our exclusion from this recent review of the Award.

The five variations proposed by the MEAA and considered by the review have a direct impact on some or all of our members. Indeed, some of the proposed variations most specifically refer to members of CPA. CPA also believes there are anomalies in the provisional view that may directly and unintentionally impact its members.

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We note the following in the preamble to the published decision;

“The general principles applicable to the conduct of the 4 yearly review have by now been firmly established and may be summarised as follows:

- fairness in this context is to be assessed from the perspective of the employees and employers covered by the modern award in question; “

We seek a clarification of why CPA was excluded from this review and its deliberations.

The unique perspectives and circumstances of our employer members were clearly not given the opportunity to be assessed as part of the review.

Further, we seek an opportunity to provide a response to the provisional view.

Yours faithfully

COUNTRY PRESS AUSTRALIA



Bruce Ellen
President