

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing to view my concerns with the current, Road Transport (Long Distance Operations) Award 2010.

Under clause 20.1(a) the ordinary hours of work shall be an average of 38 hours per week and may be calculated over a period of not more than 28 days.

It states, Average of 38 hours per week, and in this line of work, I am yet to find a truck driver that, AVERAGES, 38 hours per week.

In the last 3 years, I have conducted a study by asking various drivers from different employment backgrounds, who are affected by this clause, (whether by Award, EBA or IFA) how many hours do they AVERAGE per week. Not one driver answered 38 hours but rather more realistically, 58 hours per week.

I propose the bench from the Fair work Commission change the clause to read, 20.1(a) the ordinary hours of work shall be an average of 50 hours per week and may be calculated over a period of not more than 28 days.

Currently drivers are affected in their annual leave, personal leave and superannuation contributions being calculated off a 38 hour week. By raising to 50 hours a week, it certainly takes some stress off drivers knowing their holiday pays are closer to the margin of their weekly wage, higher paid sick days help keep budgets met and super contributions ensure a better security for their futures.

Certainly there will be employers and their representatives opposing this proposal on the fact of how much extra this will cost, we all know that employers cover their employees cost through contracts and clients. May be a shock to begin with, but so was the time when Fair Work Commission was introduced, and today we seem to coincide well.

For the past 8 years or more, the award has not been changed, (apart from CPI raises) except for phrasing and words. Varied allowances and super contributions are the same as the Award 2010, with a lot of employers still having current EBA's and IFA's prior 2010 and Fair Work Commission cause of no change to the Award. I do see this to be UNFAIR to the drivers.

Driver's commitments and sacrifices today are going without true compensation. With all other prices rising, (fuel, mortgages, property to mention a few) this is pushing drivers to work extraordinary hours to survive for themselves and families. We seem to be going backwards to a time where employers forced drivers to work long hours to the brink of exhaustion, (not that anyone would admit this).

My proposal has no mathematical equation as the current 38 hours a week statement has, however it is based on human morals and fairness to the truck driver of today. Change needs to happen, (it is long overdue) so please take this proposal seriously and give drivers a little more compensation for their dedicated work.

Yours,

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