



The Australian Industry Group
51 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
PO Box 289
North Sydney NSW 2059
Australia
ABN 76 369 958 788

10 July 2020

Commissioner Bissett
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: chambers.bissett.c@fwc.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

Re. AM2019/20 Application to vary the Manufacturing and Associated Industries and Occupations Award 2010 – Request for further extension of time

We refer to the above matter and amended directions issued by the Fair Work Commission (**Commission**) on 17 June 2020. Those directions require parties opposing the application to file any submissions upon which they seek to rely by 4pm on 10 July 2020.

The Australian Industry Group (**Ai Group**) has a significant interest in this matter and intends to file submissions opposing the application. Regrettably, however, despite our best efforts, we will not be in a position to file our material in accordance with the Commission's directions. Our resources have been occupied by a number of other significant proceedings concerning proposed award variations, many of which relate specifically to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other matters such as the Federal Government's consultation process concerning potential industrial relations reform. The time-sensitive nature of those matters has unfortunately resulted in our inability to prepare our response to Mr Whackett's application in accordance with the Commission's directions.

We therefore write to respectfully request a further extension to file our submissions by **close of business on 17 July 2020**.

We note that submissions in reply to our material are presently required to be filed on 24 July 2020. We propose that if the extension sought is granted, such submissions instead be required to be filed by 31 July 2020. With this further amendment to the directions, we do not anticipate that any interested party would be prejudiced by the grant of the extension sought.

We thank the Commission for its consideration of our request.

Yours sincerely,

Brent Ferguson
National Manager – Workplace Relations
Advocacy & Policy

Ruchi Bhatt
Senior Adviser – Workplace Relations
Policy