



Victorian Automobile
Chamber of Commerce

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6 November 2020

The Hon. Justice Ross, President
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: Chambers.Ross.j@fwc.gov.au

Dear Justice Ross

4 yearly review of modern awards – Plain language project (AM2016/15)

Your Honour issued a Statement [2020] FWCFB 5674 on 28 October 2020 asking interested parties to comment on whether the plain language redraft of the Vehicle, Manufacturing and Building Awards should commence in 2020.

This submission is filed by the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) on behalf of the Motor Trades Organisations (VACC, MTA NSW, MTA SANT and MTA WA) as interested parties in relation to *the Vehicle Repair, Services and Retail Award 2020 (VRSR Award)*.

The Motor Trades Organisations respectfully submit that the plain language process in relation to the VRSR Award should not commence in 2020.

We note that the VRSR Award commenced on 29 May 2020 after nearly 6 years of the 4 yearly award review process, involving substantial changes (including the removal of vehicle manufacturing) from the predecessor award. Having only recently come into effect, we are of the view that the VRSR Award has had insufficient time operating in practice to enable potential issues to manifest, such that may require clarification by the Commission.

In addition, we are mindful of the current workload of the parties resulting from the impact of COVID-19 and the caseload expected to commence in the near term pursuant to the legislative changes to industrial relations law indicated by the Federal Government.

We have been in contact with the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union (AMWU) and understand the AMWU to hold a concordant view in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Hodges
Executive Manager – Workplace Relations
VACC

For and on behalf of:

VACC, MTA NSW, MTA South Australia and Northern Territory, and MTA Western Australia