



24 June 2022

By email: amod@fwc.gov.au

ETU Submission to the Fair Work Commission regarding the Annual Wage Review's Draft Determinations

1. The Electrical Trades Union of Australia (**ETU**) is a division of the Communications, Electrical and Plumbing Union (**CEPU**).¹
2. The ETU is the principal union for electrical and electrotechnology tradespeople and apprentices in Australia, representing well over sixty thousand workers around the country.
3. The CEPU represents over one hundred thousand workers nationally, making us amongst the largest trade unions in Australia.
4. In the spirit of reconciliation, the ETU acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples today.
5. On 17 June 2022, the Fair Work Commission published draft determinations (**Draft Determinations**) giving effect to the Expert Panel's decision in the Annual Wage Review 2021-22,² and the Full Bench issued a Statement³ inviting feedback in respect of the Draft Determinations.
6. The ETU has read the Australian Council of Trade Union's submissions (**ACTU Submissions**), which are to the effect the Draft Determinations should be amended as necessary to ensure that all adult rates in modern awards (including those applicable to apprentices and to trainees) increase by \$40 per week.
7. The ETU takes this opportunity to confirm its support for the ACTU Submission, and further notes that in the experience of the ETU:
 - (a) the recent increase in CPI and cost-of-living pressures have had significant consequences for its apprentice members given their low pay and, in particular, its adult apprentice members given that they are more likely to have dependents and other financial responsibilities; and
 - (b) the financial pressures facing apprentices and their low pay is often a key reason for its apprentice members, and particularly its adult apprentice members, leaving their apprenticeships prior to completion.

¹ The CEPU is a Registered Organisation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (Cth).

² [2022] FWCFB 3500.

³ [2022] FWCFB 99.