



## President's statement

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### *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs Better Pay) Act 2022*

Acting President Hatcher

Sydney, 30 January 2023

[1] On 6 December 2022 the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs Better Pay) Act 2022* (the Secure Jobs Better Pay Act) received Royal Assent. Relevantly, the Secure Jobs Better Pay Act amends the *Fair Work Act 2009*, the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and the *Fair Work (Transitional Provisions and Consequential Amendments) Act 2009*.

[2] On 8 December 2022, I issued a [Statement](#) setting out the Commission's approach to the implementation of the Secure Jobs Better Pay Act changes. That Statement noted that there are a number of significant changes to the enterprise bargaining and enterprise agreement approval processes that will commence on 6 June 2023, or an earlier date to be fixed by proclamation.

[3] On 18 January 2023, I issued a further [Statement](#) dealing with the changes to making enterprise agreements. It set out a draft timetable for the Commission to make the new Statement of Principles required by Schedule 1, Part 14 of the Secure Jobs Better Pay Act and requested parties to provide submissions and feedback regarding the proposed draft timetable by Wednesday, 25 January 2023.

[4] On 25 January 2023, I received correspondence from the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) suggesting an amendment to the proposed timetable to provide an opportunity for the filing of reply submissions in the week commencing 10 April 2023. This is a date two weeks from when the parties' initial submissions are due to be filed on the 27 March 2023, and four weeks before the 'Final' Statement of Principles (as made) will be published on Commission's website and lodged with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for registration (see below).

[5] I have decided to vary the proposed timetable as suggested by Ai Group. The revised timetable is set out below. Parties should note that the opportunity to file reply submissions is optional. Actual filing dates for submissions and submissions in reply will be set out in the Statement to be issued in the week commencing 27 February 2023.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task or event</b>
January/early February 2023	Consultation with peak councils (ACTU, Ai Group, ACCI, COSBOA)
w/c 6 February 2023	Discussion paper to be published to assist with conferences

<b>Date</b>	<b>Task or event</b>
14 and 15 February 2023	Conferences with interested parties to be held as follows: Melbourne (AM Tuesday 14 February) Sydney (AM Wednesday 15 February), and Online via Microsoft Teams (PM Wednesday 15 February)
w/c 27 February 2023	Statement with draft Statement of Principles to be published for comment
w/c 27 March 2023	Closing date for submissions in relation draft Statement of Principles
w/c 10 April 2023	Closing date for optional submissions in reply following initial submissions filed in w/c 27 March 2023.
w/c 8 May 2023	'Final' Statement of Principles (as made) published on website and lodged with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for registration
Late May 2023	Final Statement of Principles registered with the Federal Register of Legislation published on FWC website
6 June 2023	Statement of Principles will commence operation

[6] The Commission will contact the peak councils directly to make arrangements for the conduct of the first step in the above consultation process. Any other interested party which wishes to participate in the Melbourne, Sydney or online conferences to be conducted on 14 and 15 February 2023 must advise the Commission of their intention to participate on or before **5.00pm on 8 February 2023**. Such advice is to be sent to [chambers.hatcher.vp@fwc.gov.au](mailto:chambers.hatcher.vp@fwc.gov.au) and shall identify the preferred conference to be attended and the persons who will attend on behalf of the relevant party.

[7] Interested parties are encouraged to subscribe to receive notifications on the [subscription services page](#) of the Commission's website. Any questions about the contents of this Statement or the Commission's implementation of the Secure Jobs Better Pay Act can be sent to [consultation@fwc.gov.au](mailto:consultation@fwc.gov.au).

## **PRESIDENT**