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28/08/2018

Deputy President Kovacic Fair Work Commission

Re: AM2014/196 and 2017/197 - Casual and Part-Time Employment – Horticulture.

Dear Deputy President,

On behalf of W.F. Montague Pty Ltd I wish to register our concern at the Fair Work Commissions Decision identified above. We are a significant employer of Casual Labour at our various orchards and rely heavily on the availability of such labour on various occasions during each season.

I particular, section 81 that provides for a Casual employee to be paid at overtime rates for all worked done in excess of 304 hours over an 8 week period. This will most likely have the unintended consequence of encouraging some employers to replace Casual workers on a regular basis thereby preventing them from reaching the 304 hour limit. This will cost employers more in re-training Casual employees and prevent Casual employees from earning their expected usual amounts during a short season.

It is understood that a daily limit may well be appropriate and 12 hours seems reasonable, however that rate should logically flow over into a weekly (60 hours) or 8 weekly (480) limit also.

Your Faithfully,

Neil Thompson

General Manager - Shared Services.

W.F. Montague.