



15 July 2019

Economics Legislation Committee

Via email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Attention Committee Members,

Senate Inquiry – Treasury Laws Amendment (Putting Members’ Interests First Bill 2019)

The Electrical Trades Union of Australia (ETU) is the Electrical, Energy and Services Division of the Communications, Electrical, Electronic, Energy, Information, Postal, Plumbing and Allied Services Union of Australia (CEPU). The ETU represents over 65,000 electrical industry workers around the country and the CEPU as a whole, represents over 100,000 workers nationally, making us one of the largest trade unions in Australia.

The ETU welcomes the opportunity to make this short submission to the Economics Legislation Committee.

The ETU is aware of the ACTU submission to this inquiry and supports that submission.

The ETU is opposed to the Bill, in its current form, as it will cause significant harm to many ETU members, and in particular, young ETU members aged 25 years or younger.

Whilst we recognise concerns that there are some Super Funds who are not doing the right thing by their members which this bill is attempting to address it is our firm view that those concerns should be addressed by holding those funds to account and ensuring APRA does its job, not by imposing a unilateral solution to a problem that doesn’t exist in many of the high performing industry funds.

The Bill in its current form does not;

- a) Provide protections for workers whose employers fail or delay payments to the trustee resulting in them being captured inadvertently by this bill;
- b) Provide trustees of industry funds a exemption from the prohibition on providing default insurance to members where they can demonstrate to the regulator that they have properly determined that it is in the best interests of the members of the fund to provide insurance to the members or a significant cohort of the membership of their funds; and
- c) Address the deficiencies that are implied about APRA not doing its job as a regulator.

On this basis the ETU is firmly of the view that the Bill should not be passed.

