

## Penalty rates outdated, deter weekend work: Michaelia Cash

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Employment Minister Michaelia Cash has backed debate about a review of weekend penalty rates.

**New Employment Minister Michaelia Cash has described weekend penalty rates as outdated and something that “seem to deter weekend work”, as she backed a debate on reform in the area.**

Business and industry groups are urging the Turnbull government to intervene in the industrial umpire’s review of modern awards to help make a stronger case for penalty rate reform.

The draft Productivity Commission report into workplace laws recommends bringing Sunday penalty rates into line with those on Saturday for operators in hospitality, entertainment, retail, restaurants and cafes.

Senator Cash, who Malcolm Turnbull appointed Employment Minister in his new ministry, said the government would take any “sensible and fair changes” to the next election and seek a mandate from voters.

“I welcome a debate in relation to penalty rates and in particular the fact that there is an argument now they were set a number of years ago, they certainly seem to deter weekend work,” she told ABC radio.

“We have more and more people wanting to open on weekends but at the end of the day it’s not the government that is currently debating penalty rates, there are currently two places where penalty rates are being actively considered; they are of course the Productivity Commission and the Fair Work Commission.”

**[It follows new Resources Minister Josh Frydenberg backing Sunday penalty rates reform](#)** in an interview on the weekend, when he said it was “an area we need to look at” as the ACTU opposes any changes.

Appearing on the Ten Network’s Bolt Report on Sunday, Mr Frydenberg said the Prime Minister was “absolutely right” to point out that industrial relations was one area that costs business “and ultimately it does cost jobs”.

Senator Cash also said she hoped “everything” would be on the table at a meeting of political, business, community and union leaders in Canberra tomorrow.

**[Mr Turnbull has seized on the economic and social policy common ground generated at last month’s National Reform Summit](#)**, sponsored by The Australian, The Australian Financial Review and KPMG, and called for another snap summit.

Senator Cash, who is unable to attend, said: “I would hope everything is on the table at this discussion and in particular because I understand that a number of the unions have been invited to the discussion.”



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