



Our Reference: 20477/NR

The Hon. Justice IJK Ross
President
Fair Work Commission
11 Exhibition Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

ATTENTION: JO RICHARDSON

Via Email: chambers.ross.j@fwc.gov.au

Dear Justice Ross

AM2014/305 – Four Yearly Review of Modern Awards – Penalty rates case

I am writing to express the opposition of WA Labor to any change to the penalty rate arrangements in the awards under review.

I note that several business groups and employer organisations have filed claims in the Four Yearly Review of Modern Awards to reduce the rates of pay for hospitality and retail workers who work on weekends and public holidays. These claims are not supported nor any other variation that would reduce the incomes of hard-working West Australians.

Hospitality and weekend workers are some of the lowest paid workers in Australia. Where these workers regularly receive penalty rates, they rely on them financially. Students, low income families and single parents would be the worst affected by any reduction in penalty rates. These people are already struggling to find a stable income, pay for childcare and still find the money to buy groceries and cover the cost of bills.

These are hard times for the Western Australian economy. We are facing the end of the mining boom that delivered unprecedented prosperity to our State. We will rely on the hard work of hospitality and retail workers to build the new economy that will preserve this prosperity for the future.

Hospitality and retail workers are also consumers: the money they earn in penalty rates will be spent on goods and services in Western Australia. The money these workers earn in penalty rates will be a lifeline for shops, restaurants and cafes adapting to the new economy. The increased disposable incomes created by paying penalty rates for working weekends and public holidays is a long term benefit to business because it drives demand and incentivises productive work.

Mark **McGowan**
Leader of the Opposition

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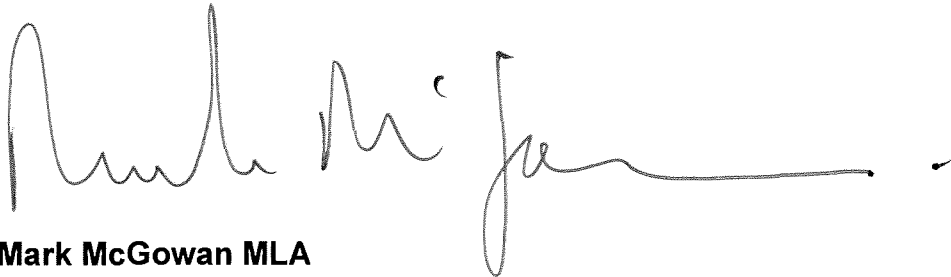


2.

Penalty rates are a fair reward for working when the rest of the country is enjoying their rest or recreation. If we expect people to give up time with family and friends on public holidays, weekends and evenings, then we should compensate those people properly.

We respectfully ask the Fair Work Commission to maintain the current penalty rates for weekend, night and public holiday work in the hospitality and retail sectors. Thank you for the opportunity to make a contribution to Fair Work Commission's review of penalty rates in the hospitality or retail awards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McGowan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark McGowan MLA
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

17 AUG 2016