

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

INDUSTRIAL REGISTRAR

Industrial Relations Act 2016 – s 458

20 AUG 2020

Queensland Council of Unions

QUEENSLAND

Together Queensland, Industrial Union of Employees

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland
Applicants

v

State of Queensland
Respondent

Matter No. B/2020/40, B2020/41 and B/2020/43

APPLICATION FOR A DECLARATION OF GENERAL RULING

STATE WAGE CASE

**SUBMISSIONS IN REPLY OF THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION OF
EMPLOYEES, QUEENSLAND**

1. The Applicant has read the submissions of the:
 - a. Queensland Government filed on 3 August 2020; and
 - b. Local Government Association Queensland filed on 13 August 2020.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

2. The Applicant understands that the Queensland Government supports:
 - a. a 1.75% increase to the Queensland Minimum Wage ('QMW'); and
 - b. an operative date of 1 September 2020.¹
3. The Queensland Government submission does not differ from the Applicant's submission in this regard.

¹ Paragraph 100 of the Queensland Government's submission.

4. However, the Applicant understands that the Queensland Government has made no submission as to whether an increase of 1.75% to Award rates of pays and allowances, but has instead left the matter for Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to decide.²
5. The Applicant submits that there should be a 1.75% increase to Award rates of pay and allowances. The Applicant relies upon our previous submission in this regard.
6. Further, the Queensland Government has not provided any arguments against an increase to the Award rates of pay and Allowances.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

7. The Applicant understands the Local Government Association of Queensland supports a:
 - a. 1.75% increase to the QMW; and
 - b. 2% increase to Award rates of pay in particular circumstances.³
8. The Local Government Association of Queensland submission does not differ from the Applicant's submission in this regard, save for the submission in relation to a 2% increase to Award rates of pay.
9. It is somewhat of a unique situation where an employer organisation is advocating for a higher increase than an employee organisation, and the Applicant merely makes the submission that should the Commission make a finding that there is capacity in the Queensland economy to sustain a 2% increase to Award rates, the Applicant would support such a position.
10. However, the Applicant understands that the Local Government Association of Queensland does not support:
 - a. an increase to the allowances;⁴ and
 - b. an operative date of 1 1 September 2020.⁵
11. In response to the Local Government Association of Queensland's submissions, the Applicant submits that there should be a 1.75% increase to Award allowances.⁶

² Paragraph 101 of the Queensland Government's submissions.

³ Paragraph 49 and 50 of the Local Government Association of Queensland's submissions.

⁴ Paragraph 43 to 45 of the Local Government Association of Queensland's Submissions.

⁵ Paragraph 51 of the Local Government Association of Queensland Submissions.

⁶ Paragraph 45 of the Applicant's submissions.

12. The Applicant submits that the Award allowances should increase by 1.75% irrespective of the decision to increase Award rates of pay (whether by the 1.75% sought by the Applicant or the 2% sought by the Local Government Association of Queensland).
13. With respect to the operative date, all other parties involved in this matter have put forward a submission for an operative date of 1 September 2020.
14. The operative date of the increase has traditionally been 1 September, and the Applicant is seeking a continuation of that operative date in 2020.

CONCLUSION

15. For the avoidance of any doubt, the Applicant is seeking:
 - a. 1.75% increase to the QMW;
 - b. 1.75% increase to all Award allowances; and
 - c. 1.75% increase to all Award rates of pay, if not the 2% increase sought by the Local Government Association of Queensland.
16. Further, that the operative date for the items stipulated at paragraph nine be 1 September 2020.