



THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Mr Steve Knott
Chief Executive
Australian Mines and Metals Association
Level 10, 607 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

13 AUG 2008

Steve
Dear Mr ~~Knott~~

Thank you for your letter of 14 July 2008, concerning appointments to Fair Work Australia (FWA).

The Australian Government announced the process for appointments to FWA prior to the last election. Appointments to FWA will be based on merit and go through a bipartisan process. The Minister responsible for Employment and Workplace Relations will only be able to make an appointment to FWA after completing the following process.

The shortlist of candidates will be scrutinised by a panel comprising:

- a senior official from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (who will chair the panel)
- a senior official from the Australian Public Service Commission, and
- a senior official from each state (and territory) department of industrial relations that wishes to participate.

The Minister will be required to consult with the opposition spokesperson for workplace relations and the head of FWA prior to making any decision about appointments to recommend to Cabinet.

Judicial members to the separate judicial division of FWA will be appointed in accordance with current processes.

Ultimately, appointments are a matter for government, however, consultations on this and other matters related to the substantive workplace relations legislation are ongoing and I look forward to further discussions with you at the next National Workplace Relations Consultative Council which will be held in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia Gillard'.

Julia Gillard
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations