



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Resources Sector Braces For IR Fallout**

The resources sector has slammed Australia's new industrial relations system, describing it as the greatest increase in union power since Federation.

According to the Australian Mines and Metals Association (AMMA), which represents Australia's blue chip mining, oil and gas companies, the new system is more about resuscitating an ailing union movement than saving jobs.

"We have no problem with the Government's reforms in the area of employee safety nets and unfair dismissal laws, but the array of increased powers being slipped through by the Government under the guise of getting rid of Workchoices is frightening", said AMMA's Chief Executive Steve Knott.

"The union movement has been handed a key to the front gate, an automatic seat at the bargaining table and direct access to sensitive commercial records", said Mr Knott.

Member companies have already confirmed unions within the sector are promoting their new found increase in powers, with inter-union turf wars looming large and business IR transaction costs already on the rise in anticipation of the new IR system.

"Given jobs are being cut in the resources sector on a daily basis (11,000 lost in the past 2 months), the last thing our members need right now is having productive time wasted on external union campaigns and agendas", he said.

Mr Knott says despite the Government's extensive consultation and a Senate review resulting in some tinkering of the legislation, the legislation clearly exceeds the original position stated by the Government at the time it was elected.

AMMA says while the Senate process demonstrated some value, with a number of amendments pressed by the sector being picked up by Senators Fielding and Xenophon, the Coalition and the Government, fundamentally the emphasis of the Fair Work Bill is on power to union bosses and not about creating jobs and improving productivity.

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