

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **North Queensland resource employers call for significant changes to overseas worker processing and IR laws**

North Queensland resource industry employers are meeting in Townsville today to discuss recent workforce issues emerging across the industry in the face of Queensland's disaster recovery effort.

Resource industry employer group, AMMA, is facilitating industry discussions for its North Queensland members.

AMMA Workplace Policy Director, Geoff Bull, said he was keen to ensure resource industry employers - who already face the challenges arising from flaws in the Fair Work Act - are not further disadvantaged as they attempt to rebuild and recover their businesses.

"The reality facing us is the skills shortage will potentially have its greatest impact in both Western Australia and Queensland in particular," Mr Bull said.

"It is vitally important for North Queensland resource industry employers to be heard in this debate."

Mr Bull said employers would also be discussing a number of other issues which have emerged in the first part of 2011, including:

- a number of significant legal cases including a recent decision to allow a minority of employees to be able to call a strike at a business where the majority of employees were opposed to taking industrial action;
- the growing levels of concern about union right of entry being experienced across the industry over the past six months;
- recently announced changes to the Government's skilled migration system; and
- compliance issues emerging from the move to a national OHS system.

"AMMA believes industry discussions such as these are vital in ensuring resource industry employers are best placed to meet the challenges emerging both within the industry itself as well as across the broader workplace relations environment," Mr Bull said.

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