

Employers commend Shorten on Geoff Bull's appointment to Fair Work Australia

THE appointment of accomplished employment lawyer and AMMA director Geoffrey Bull as a Fair Work Australia (FWA) Commissioner marks a significant step towards a balanced and objective industrial relations regulator, says AMMA chief executive Steve Knott.

Mr Bull will leave his post as AMMA director of workplace policy, where he provided industrial relations advice on Australia's largest resources projects, to begin his role as a FWA Commissioner.

During a dynamic industrial relations and legal career spanning 30 years, Mr Bull has held a wide range of positions from principal IR consultant with BHP Iron Ore and Kellogg Joint Venture Gorgon to directing policy within the West Australian State Government, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA and most recently resource industry employer group, AMMA.

A Barrister of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and the High Court of Australia, Mr Bull is also recognised as one of the country's leading authorities on skilled migration policy and legal matters.

"Geoff Bull is one of Australia's preeminent IR practitioners and on behalf of the Australian resource industry, AMMA commends Workplace Relations Minister Bill Shorten on appointing Geoff Bull as a Fair Work Commissioner," Mr Knott says.

"The unprecedented international investment in Australian resource projects and record commodity exports continue to greatly assist our national economy. The appointment of Geoff Bull to Australia's highest industrial relations tribunal is reflective of the growing significance of the national resource industry.

"Geoff has a proven ability to manage the complex industrial relations issues that are associated with large resources projects. We are certainly sad to lose a hard working, legal professional of his talent, but only in this new role can Geoff's passion for the modern, balanced and equitable practice of IR policy be utilised for the benefit of all Australian workplaces."

In AMMA's submission to the Fair Work Review Panel last week, the resource industry employer group recommended the appointment of new commissioners from an employer and private enterprise background would be a positive step towards restoring industry faith in the national IR regulatory body.

"In the near future, industry looks forward to cases being scrutinised and rulings handed down from tribunals containing a balanced make-up of members from union, academic, government, private enterprise and industry body backgrounds," Mr Knott says.

"In this regard, Geoff Bull and ACCI's David Gregory are outstanding appointments to Fair Work Australia. With this level of diversity and widespread experience, Australian employers, workers and the economy in whole can benefit from a truly objective, fair and effective industrial relations regulator.

"AMMA also welcomes the appointment of Justice Iain Ross AO as the new President of Fair Work Australia."

For all media requests, including high resolution images of Geoff Bull and/or Steve Knott, please contact:

Minna Knight, Director of Public Affairs and Member Services: M: 0429 143 449 or E: Minna.Knight@amma.org.au

Tom Reid, Media & Government Relations Adviser: M: 0419 153 407 or E: Tom.Reid@amma.org.au