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Public 'hoodwinked' by IR promise

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**EXCLUSIVE DAN JERVIS-BARDY
& DYLAN CAPORN**

The Federal Government's promise to amend its widely panned industrial relations reforms "fall desperately short of a workable solution", the boss of the nation's peak resources lobby group has warned.

In some of the most damning comments to come out of the debate, Minerals Council of Australia CEO Tania Constable told The West Australian reports the Albanese Government was prepared to

make a major concession for service contractors was an attempt to "hoodwink the Parliament and the public".

The Australian Resources and Energy Employer Association struck a deal with

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'No one should be fooled' by IR law 'concession', CEO claims

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Workplace Relations Minister Tony Burke on Tuesday to specifically exempt service contractors from the Closing Loopholes Bill — a key argument against the laws. While AREEA celebrated the deal, Ms Constable was quick to dismiss the announcement, claiming contractors would still have to litigate their way out. "Any amendment that does not include a complete removal of service contractors from being exposed to Same Job, Same Pay, and a proper definition of 'labour hire' would merely be tinkering at the edges," she told The West Australian.

Ms Constable slammed the Bill and its "complex and confusing" 12-point test that is supposed to help service contractors figure

out how they will be treated by the proposed laws.

"Tinkering with the test doesn't alter the fact that all service contractors will still be captured till they can litigate their way out, at great cost to themselves," she said.

Ms Constable said the Bill offered "nothing" to service contractors who would be unable to litigate themselves out of the legislation.

"No one should be fooled by such tactics. No one should take the bait, simply to be seen as taking credit for striking a deal. We have already seen such absurdity in regards to proposed amendments on casuals," she said.

AREEA chief executive Steve Knott told The Australian Mr Burke had responded to "con-

cerns".

AREEA's members include Fortescue, Woodside, ExxonMobil and Chevron.

Mr Burke said AREEA's amendments made it explicitly clear service contractors should not be covered by the new laws.