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**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE INQUIRY INTO THE
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (FAIR WORK HARMONISATION NO. 2) AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2013**

Report No. 45

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation 1 -

The majority of the Committee recommends the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 be passed.

Queensland Government response:

The recommendation is noted.

Recommendation 2 -

The majority of the Committee recommends proposed section 149(3) in clause 28 of the Bill be amended so that the conciliating member is required to give a copy of the conciliation report to all parties (as well as the vice-president) within 14 days after the conciliation period for the matter ends.

Queensland Government response:

The recommendation is accepted.

This is a sensible recommendation which will ensure there is clarity on the issues which are to become the subject of arbitration. Adopting this recommendation will improve the operation of the Bill.

Recommendation 3 -

The majority of the Committee recommends that when the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice commences making award modernisation requests to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, consideration be given to prioritising matters affected by the transitional provisions in the Bill – such as pre-modernisation interim awards like the *Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Auxiliary Interim Award 2013* and variations to awards such as the *Employees of Queensland Government Departments (Other Than Public Servants) Award*.

Queensland Government response:

The recommendation is accepted.

It is appropriate that consideration be given to prioritising matters concerning instruments affected by transitional arrangements of the Bill in the drafting of the Minister's request to the Vice President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in regard to commencing the award modernisation process. This will ensure that the efforts and agreements of parties engaged in those matters, such as the Auxiliary Firefighters and Indigenous Police Officers, is not unduly delayed or undone. It is noted that section 822 of the proposed Bill provides for those matters temporarily interrupted as a consequence of the introduction of the Bill.