



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**

Mr Mark Ritter SC
Ministerial Review of the State Industrial Relations System
Level 4, Gordon Stephenson House
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Dear Mr Ritter

Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 October 2017 which outlines the Terms of Reference for a Ministerial review of the State industrial relations system.

The Department of Communities fully supports the intent and the principles that underpin the Review. I note that the Terms of Reference include examining access for public sector employees to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

The Communities' workforce comprises public sector employees and government officers employed under the Public Sector Management Act 1994, and non-government wages staff employed under the Industrial Relations Act 1979.

As you would be aware, public sector employees and government officers are currently required to access the Public Sector Appeals Board or the Public Sector Arbitrator on a range of industrial matters. However non-government wages staff access the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission for industrial matters.

It is the view of Communities that it may be more efficient and beneficial for all agency employees to have access to a consistent and common industrial relations framework under the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important review.

Yours sincerely



Paul Whyte
A/DIRECTOR GENERAL

17 November 2017

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