



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 service employees to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission on a range of matters for which they are currently excluded.

The Communities' workforce comprises public service officers, government officers and wages staff, who currently have different access to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

As you would be aware, public sector employees and government officers are currently required to access the Public Service Appeals Board or the Public Service Arbitrator to deal with industrial matters. However, all wages staff access the general jurisdiction of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

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 with the same access to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Searle'.

Grahame Searle
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

22 December 2017