

Resolution

SUBJECT: Western Australia Review of IR Legislation

Congress notes with concern the decision of the WA State Government to establish a review of the WA Industrial Relations Act 1979.

Congress expresses its concern that this review has been initiated without any consultation with the WA union movement. In particular there has been no consultation in relation to the terms of reference or the method of review.

Congress calls on the State Government to immediately rule out using this review to insert Workchoices style provisions into state legislation. In particular the State Government should rule out changes that would dilute or reduce:

- Workers' access to unfair dismissal remedies;
- The safety net that underpins bargaining;
- The provisions relating to Employer/employee agreements;
- Workers' rights to union advice in workplace and union right of entry; and
- The powers of the Commission [including the public service arbitrator] to deal with disputes.

Congress also calls on the Premier, Colin Barnett, to honour the public commitment he made before the election not to reintroduce individual workplace agreements and notes with concern the refusal of the Liberal party to outline any IR policy prior to the state election.

Congress notes also that the Barnett Liberal/National Government has no mandate to change WA's IR laws particularly where such changes would be contrary to the will of the Australian people who outrightly rejected the oppressive, anti-worker Workchoices legislation at the last federal election.

Congress endorses the development of a coordinated campaign by unions to ensure that Western Australian workers' rights are protected.