

**Australian Services Union
Western Australian Branch**

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Branch Secretary
Wayne Wood

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17 January 2014

Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Legislation Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000



A•S•U

Dear Ms McSweeney,

RE: ASU WA Branch submission on Workforce Reform Bill 2013



ACCS

The Western Australian Municipal, Administrative, Clerical and Services Union of Employees (ASU) is the union in Western Australia that holds coverage of workers employed by the Public Transport Authority (PTA) under the Public Transport Authority Salaried Officers Agreement 2011.

ASU Representatives and its Members are about to commence negotiation for a replacement Enterprise Agreement.



ASU / ME

As a union we are dedicated to strengthening workers pay and conditions through collective agreements and seek to achieve this through good faith bargaining.

ASU Members are deeply concerned that The Workforce Reform Bill (WR Bill) 2013 is seeking to undermine employment rights of public sector workers, resulting in those workers having fewer unfair dismissal and collective bargaining rights than private sector workers. The WR Bill will also reduce the independence of the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC).



ENERGY / IT

In addition it is noted the current state government Public Sector Wages Policy for 2014 states at its point 3 that:



LOCAL GOVT

The Government of Western Australia requires that increases in wages and associated conditions for all industrial agreements be capped at the projected growth in the Perth Consumer Price Index, as published from time to time by the Department of Treasury.

Perth CPI growth will be 2.5 per cent in 2013-14, and each year thereafter, according to the 2013-14 Government Mid-year Financial Projections Statement issued by the WA Treasury.



SACS

This position is rejected by ASU Members given the rapidly increasing costs of living in WA, in particular the enormous costs of essential public services (electricity, gas and water), and is seen as part of a general attack on the public sector that includes privatisation, cut backs and under-funding threatening our public hospitals, schools, and other services



TRANSPORT

ASU and its Members support UnionsWA's submission on the Workforce Reform Bill 2013 in its entirety and the position set forth in it that 'such retrograde changes, if successfully instituted in the public sector, will add to the pressure by employer groups and conservative governments to erode the job security of all Western Australians.'

In short, ASU and its Members call upon the Standing Committee to reject the WR Bill 2013 in its entirety. The state government should instead commit itself to fully engaging with the public sector workforce through its unions to identify genuine measures that improve and deliver quality services for all Western Australians.

ASU representatives would like the opportunity to speak to and give evidence about the content of the *Workforce Reform Bill* directly to the Standing Committee. Please contact me on 08 9427 7777 or branch.secretary@asuwa.org to discuss matters further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Wood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Wayne Wood

Branch Secretary