



SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF
EMPLOYERS AND INDUSTRIES (AFEI)

AM2008/92

AWARD MODERNISATION

AFEI
Australian Federation of
Employers & Industries

**BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
COMMISSION**

**AM2008/92 – WATER, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE SERVICES
INDUSTRY**

1. The Australian Federation of Employers and Industries (AFEI) make the following submissions concerning the Water, Sewerage and Drainage Services Industry, which is included in Stage 4 of Award Modernisation.
2. AFEI has assessed the types of industrial instruments that are applicable specifically in this industry and it is overwhelming apparent that enterprise awards dominate this industry.
3. The pre-reform awards that are in place – the Regional Water Authorities Award 1999 and the Rural Water Industry Award 2001 – cover a total of seven enterprises which are all located in Victoria. Indeed the minimum wage order only relates to the Electricity, Gas and Water supply industry sector in Victoria. It would be inappropriate for the conditions of pre-reform awards which cover seven enterprises in one state to dictate the terms of a modern award across the entire country.
4. If a modern award was to be made, it would predominantly cover smaller businesses involved in the industry. The pre-reform award conditions are clearly not appropriate for these types of businesses. Currently these businesses rely upon clerical and administrative, engineering and plumbing awards to cover most of their employees so modern awards for these areas will cover them in the future.

5. In conclusion, AFEI submits that no modern award should be made for this industry.

24 July 2009