

Tuesday 14 November 2006

HIGH COURT DECISION CONFIRMS NEW CHAPTER FOR AUSTRALIA'S WORKPLACE RELATIONS SYSTEM

**Statement by Heather Ridout
Chief Executive Australian Industry Group**

"Today's decision by the High Court confirms the new chapter which opened for Australia's workplace relations system when the WorkChoices legislation came into operation in March. There is no going back.

"The decision unambiguously validates the central tenet of the Government's WorkChoices legislation: the creation of a national workplace relations system.

"This is a victory for the Federal Government which will deliver certainty to business.

"There is now clarity around the operation of the legislation and the decision is a most welcome one for Australian industry," Mrs Ridout said.

"Importantly, the High Court ruling sends a strong signal to the States that they should abandon their opposition to WorkChoices, cede their workplace relations powers to the Commonwealth and work within the new national framework.

"This is a most historic decision which significantly increases the Federal Government's control over the national economy through the wider use of the Corporations Power of the Constitution.

"A cautionary note that needs to be expressed is that what goes around comes around and Federal Governments of all persuasion will need to use these powers judiciously," Mrs Ridout said.

Further Comment:

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