

WHAT'S AT RISK UNDER ABBOTT?

FACTSHEET: SWING POWER BACK IN FAVOUR OF EMPLOYERS

FACT

The Coalition's IR policy will allow hard line employers to refuse to meaningfully bargain as a tactic to prevent workers from having the option of protected industrial action.

“...the Coalition will change the laws to ensure that protected industrial action can only happen after there have been genuine and meaningful talks between workers and business at the workplace during enterprise bargaining. (Page 32)”

Abbott will give employers the ability to have the Fair Work Commission determine whether or not workers claims in bargaining are “sensible or “realistic” and use this as a means of stopping protected industrial action.

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“The Coalition will change the laws so that the Fair Work Commission must be satisfied that claims are realistic and sensible before they approve an application to take protected industrial action. (Page 34)”

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Abbott will give employers the ability to argue in the Fair Work Commission that workers claims do not “adversely affect productivity” as a means of stopping protected industrial action.

“The Coalition's plan would require the tribunal to be satisfied that the claims made would not adversely affect productivity. (page 35)”

Abbott will prevent enterprise agreements from being approved by the Fair Work Commission unless the parties can satisfy the Commission that workers and management discussed productivity improvements. This would allow employers to sabotage collective bargaining by simply refusing to discuss certain topics.

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“Before an enterprise agreement is approved, the Fair Work Commission will have to be satisfied that the parties have at least discussed productivity as part of their negotiations process. (Page 33)”

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Abbott will allow employers to refuse to reach an agreement with Unions as a means of forcing through Greenfields Agreements.

“Where agreement cannot be reached within three months, the business will be able to take their proposed Greenfield agreement to the Fair Work Commission for approval. (page 30)”

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