

Question on Notice
No. 55
Asked on 5 May 2015

MR WALKER ASKED THE TREASURER, MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON C PITT)—
QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer provide an update on the status of the public sector award modernisation process being undertaken by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission including the number of awards that have been modernised to date and the number which are scheduled to be modernised this year, including any proposed full bench hearings which have been scheduled?

ANSWER:

The former LNP government's move to award modernisation cruelly stripped away vital safeguards and conditions from Queensland's public sector and local government workers.

Under the circumstances, an immediate response was required by the Palaszczuk Government. On 17 March 2015, I issued a variation notice to the Award Modernisation Ministerial Request to suspend the award modernisation process to allow the government to make urgent amendment to the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* and bring an end to the former government's unfair framework.

Our changes restore fairness to the award modernisation process and abolish those aspects of the LNP's industrial relations system that, if allowed to continue would have irreparably damaged the State's industrial relations system.

As the process is suspended, there is no current schedule of awards to be modernised this year.

Ten (10) modern awards have been made to date. A list of modern awards is available on the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission website (http://www.qirc.qld.gov.au/qirc/agreement_award/awards_online.htm).

While two (2) Full Bench proceedings for the making of modern awards had been proposed at the time award modernisation was suspended, hearing dates were not scheduled for those proceedings.