



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEDIA STATEMENT

2022 STATE WAGE CASE

Thursday, 23 June 2022

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission has increased the State Minimum Wage by \$40.90 per week, which brings the State Minimum Wage to \$819.90 per week from 1 July 2022. The Commission also increased award rates up to the C10 classification rate by \$40.90 per week, and increased rates of pay for award classifications at the C10 classification and above by 4.65%.

The increases apply only to employees who are paid the minimum wage or award rates in the State industrial relations system. Approximately 27,000 employers and more than 300,000 employees are estimated to be affected by the decision.

In making its decision, the Commission is required to consider a broad range of economic and labour market factors, and social and equity considerations.

The Commission noted that the State economy has continued its strong growth since last year's State Wage Case. The domestic economy is forecast to achieve its strongest growth in a decade in this financial year. This has in turn led to a very strong labour market, with record low unemployment and high jobs growth. The Commission considered that the Western Australian economy is strong and can sustain an increase in the State Minimum Wage.

In its decision, the Commission noted rising inflationary pressures and the risk of wage rises causing businesses to pass on rising input costs, including labour costs, to consumers, further accelerating inflation. Any increase in the State Minimum Wage and award wages needs to be moderated, so as not to pose a risk to employment and inflation.

Based on projections by the Reserve Bank of Australia, inflation is likely to remain elevated for the remainder of this year. In the current environment of high inflation, low paid employees in the State industrial relations system are particularly susceptible to financial stress and increasingly spend more of their incomes on non-discretionary items, to make ends meet.

A full copy of the decision can be found on the Commission's website: www.wairc.wa.gov.au.

For more information, please contact Susan Bastian, Registrar, on (08) 9420 4444.