



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

MEDIA STATEMENT

2021 STATE WAGE CASE

Thursday, 24 June 2021

The Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission has increased the State Minimum Wage by 2.5% which brings the State Minimum Wage to \$779.00 per week from 1 July 2021. The Commission also increased award wages by 2.5% from that time.

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.

In its decision, the Commission noted that, given the unique circumstances of last year's State Wage Case and the case this year, the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic had been a most important consideration in terms of the damaging impact of the outbreak of the pandemic and the subsequent recovery in this State and nationally.

The State economy has rebounded strongly and has returned to a growth path far more quickly than anyone forecasted. Buoyed by the strength of the mining and resources sector, positive signs of economic recovery have been across the board, such that all of the jobs lost from the outbreak of the pandemic have now been recovered. Household consumption, consumer confidence and business confidence have returned. Retail spending has been very strong right throughout the pandemic period. Whilst the accommodation and food services sector has also recovered strongly, it is still somewhat short of the level it was in the March quarter 2020.

The Western Australian economy is the strongest of all the States and Territories. However, risks to the outlook remain. The prospect of further lockdowns and other restrictions in response to outbreaks cannot be discounted.

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.