**From:** Brent Ferguson

Sent: Thursday, 5 November 2020 10:42 AM

To: 'chambers.ross.j@fwc.gov.au' <chambers.ross.j@fwc.gov.au> **Cc:** Ruchi Bhatt < Ruchi.Bhatt@aigroup.com.au >; Tamsin Lawrence

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**Subject:** Applications to vary the Clerks - Private Sector Award 2020 (AM2020/95)

Dear Associate,

I write in relation to today's conference relating to potential variations to the Clerks – Private Sector Award 2020 and the proposed employer party survey (AM2020/95).

Since the matter was last before the Commission, the Ai Group, ACCI, ASU and ACTU have had further discussions regarding potential variations to the award and the further draft survey prepared by the Commission earlier this week.

It appears that there may be scope to reach agreement between the parties on the proposition that Schedule I of the Clerks – Private Sector Award 2020 should be extended for a further meaningful, albeit temporary, period. The union parties do however require a short period of time to confirm their position.

It also appears that various parties currently contend that further amendments to the survey prepared by the Commission earlier this week would be desirable. It is Ai Group's view that there are a number of changes that should be made to enhance the survey's utility. The parties have not yet had time to finish discussions and consideration of such matters.

Given this context, the parties jointly propose, subject to the Commission's availability, that today's conference be postponed until Monday afternoon or as soon as possible thereafter (noting the unavailability of the ASU on Tuesday). We make this request on the basis that the parties will report back to the Commission by close of business on Friday regarding whether a consent position in relation to the extension of Schedule I has been reached.

This further period would also afford the parties necessary time to complete their consideration and discussions regarding the potential survey.

The parties thank the Commission for its consideration of this request.

Regards,

## **Brent Ferguson**

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