Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee

Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022 [Provisions]

Centre for Future Work answer to question taken on notice at Hearing on 11 November 2022

Question: Senator DAVID POCOCK: There's been talk about an aspect of the bill where unions have to approve agreements. I am wondering whether in your reading that applies just to the multi-enterprise streams or also the single interest stream, the single enterprise stream?

Response to question on notice:

We understand this question to be in relation to Amendment 30 of the Secure Jobs Better Pay Bill 2022 which would insert a new section 180A.

The supplementary explanatory memorandum states this amendment applies to a proposed multienterprise agreement (i.e. a proposed single interest agreement, supported bargaining agreement or cooperative workplace agreement). It also states that the requirement would not apply to a proposed single-enterprise agreement.

We understand the purpose of this amendment is to ensure the agreement doesn't breach good faith bargaining provisions especially where a variation is being made to add a new employer and bargaining has not taken place.