

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000358

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Number and timeframes of Greenfields agreements

How many Greenfields Agreements are for major projects, (projects exceeding \$50 million)?
What is the average time frame from commencement of negotiations until the Greenfield Agreement is lodged at the moment?
How many Greenfields Agreements have not been made?

Answer

How many Greenfields Agreements are for major projects, (projects exceeding \$50 million)?

There is no requirement under the *Fair Work Act 2009* for parties to disclose information to the Fair Work Commission (the Commission) about the forecasted monetary value of major projects.

The Commission operates a Major Projects Panel to deal with matters regarding major projects. The panel identifies a major project as a project with a capital value of at least \$1 billion, however, projects of a particular regional significance may be allocated to the panel despite falling below the capital value threshold.

What is the average time frame from commencement of negotiations until the Greenfield Agreement is lodged at the moment?

There is currently no requirement for bargaining representatives to notify the Commission of the commencement of greenfields agreement negotiations. The Commission has not maintained data regarding the timeframe between the commencement of negotiations for a greenfields agreement and its lodgment with the Commission.

For the 2014–15 financial year, the median timeframe for a greenfields agreement approval application to be finalised from the date of the application being made was 14 days and 90 per cent of applications were finalised within 46 days.

How many Greenfields Agreements have not been made?

The Commission is not able to collect data regarding the number of greenfields agreement that have not been made.