

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000362

Senator Lines provided in writing.

#### Question

##### Number and timeframes of Greenfields agreements

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

#### Answer

1. There is no requirement under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Fair Work Act) to disclose to the Fair Work Commission the value of the projects for which greenfields agreements will cover. There is therefore no data available on how many greenfields agreements cover projects exceeding \$50 million.
2. There is no requirement under the Fair Work Act for bargaining representatives to notify the Fair Work Commission of the commencement of greenfields agreement negotiations. It is therefore not possible to report on average timeframes for the negotiation of greenfields agreements.

However, based on their public consultations, both the Fair Work Act Review 2012 and the Productivity Commission expressed significant concerns about the negotiation of greenfields agreements for major projects, including delays resulting from negotiations, and recommended substantial changes to the Fair Work Act to address the concerns

3. There is no requirement under the Fair Work Act for bargaining representatives to notify the Fair Work Commission of the commencement of greenfields agreement negotiations. It is therefore not possible to report on the number of greenfields agreements where bargaining has commenced but an agreement has not been made.