



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of the **Premier and Cabinet**
Office of the Director General

Hon Robyn McSweeney MLC
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Legislation Committee
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Ms Lauren Mesiti

Dear Chairperson

Inquiry into Workforce Reform Bill 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Workforce Reform Bill 2013 (the Bill).

The Department acknowledges and supports the scope of the Bill as part of the package of public sector workforce savings and reform initiatives that reflects the government's firm commitment in addressing the structural challenges facing the State's finances. As such, the purpose appropriately outlined in the Explanatory Memorandum will provide public sector agencies further options in dealing with surplus employees that cannot be transitioned into other positions and consequently redundant to the sector.

This Bill refers to the Public Sector Wages Policy in relation to future decisions made by the WA Industrial Relations Commission (WAIRC). The intent of the policy is beneficial in providing boundaries for negotiation within the financial capacity of the state public sector. The structure of this Bill is traditional and consistent with all regulatory change processes.

The Department assumes that the Public Sector Commission will release implementation guidelines to accompany the introduction of new and amended regulatory provisions once it has been passed by Parliament. It is anticipated that this will provide further clarification to Chief Executive Officers on the complexities in executing their additional powers.

Yours sincerely

Peter Conran
DIRECTOR GENERAL

17 JAN 2014