



**OFFICE OF THE HON JULIA GILLARD MP
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Mr Barry Gannon
State & Federal Secretary
Property Sales Association of Queensland
PO Box 863
SPRINGWOOD QLD 4127

22 OCT 2009

Dear Mr Gannon

Thank you for your letters of 26 August 2009 and 1 October 2009 to the Hon Julia Gillard MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations concerning the modern award covering the real estate industry. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

As you are aware, the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (the Commission) is undertaking the task of award modernisation. Once completed modern awards will comprise one element of the simple and flexible safety net of minimum employment conditions.

As you may appreciate, award modernisation is a challenging task. The Commission is reducing approximately 4 000 state and federal instruments, many of which are complicated and lengthy, to approximately 150 modern awards. The Government strongly believes that the process of award modernisation will be best achieved with the input of the parties which will be most affected by modern awards. In recognition of this, the Minister's award modernisation request, issued to the President of the Commission at the beginning of the award modernisation process, provided that the Commission must take a consultative approach to award modernisation, including issuing exposure drafts of modern awards for comment.

I note that the representatives from the real estate industry, united as the 'Real Estate Unions' and 'Real Estate Employers' Combined Consultative Group' (the consultative group), contributed to the consultation process by providing the Commission with a proposed award for the real estate industry. Members of the consultative group are to be commended for working together to develop a consent award. Your contribution has helped the Commission to realise its aim of creating a strong, fair and flexible safety net of minimum conditions for employers and employees in the real estate industry.

Thank you for your interest in these important matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Lampe'.

**Amanda Lampe
Chief of Staff**