

HILL & CO LAWYERS

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 10th April 2008

LABOR'S CHANGES TO FEDERAL WORKPLACE LAW WILL HARM SMALL BUSINESS

In an address to the Gosford Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday 9th April, **HILL & CO LAWYERS** argued that recent and proposed changes to Federal workplace law will harm the interests of small business at a time when they are already under pressure with rising interest rates.

HILL & CO LAWYERS see four side effects of the reforms:

- The abolition of AWA's remove an agreement making option in the system to facilitate 'win-win' outcomes across small enterprises;
- Interim Employment Agreements (ITEA's) to replace AWA's provide flexibility in name only and will not be widely used;
- The proposed changes to the unfair dismissal regime will open the gate for increased litigation against small employers who dismiss non-performing staff;
- The raising of the safety net protections in awards and through extra legislation will kick up the price of enterprise bargaining wage outcomes and hit small business disproportionately harder;

Speaking at the Chamber's monthly luncheon this week, Peter Hill, Practice Manager, **HILL & CO LAWYERS** stated:

“ There is not a lot in the reforms that one can find a positive for small business, notwithstanding that these businesses are the real engine room of our economy. The Rudd Labor Government needs to hear these concerns that small business have, particularly those dealing with the proposed changes to the unfair dismissal regime, and act on them.””

HILL & CO LAWYERS is a successful commercial law firm based in the Platinum building at Erina and services the Central Coast, Sydney and the Hunter regions. The firm is active in the community, sponsoring a range of local sporting, charitable and business activities on the Central Coast, including the Kincumber Roos Football Club, Central Coast Community Chest and Gosford Chamber of Commerce.

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