

[[Previous](#)] [[Major News - ACTU Mentions](#)] [[Next](#)]

Friday 10 February 2006

The Sydney Morning Herald

Business lobby's plan could cut pay for 800,000, say unions

Author: Nick O'Malley

Publication: Sydney Morning Herald (6,Fri 10 Feb 2006)

Edition: First

Keywords: **ACTU (1),Sharan (1),Burrow (1)**

AUSTRALIA's peak business lobby group has put forward a plan to the Government that could see the wages of up to 800,000 workers cut by up to \$400.

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry made the pitch in its submission to the Award Review Taskforce, established by the Government to cut the number of workplace awards and wage settings as the new industrial relations laws take effect.

"It is breathtaking in its irresponsibility," said the president of the **ACTU, Sharan Burrow**.

Under the plan, the standard 14 or 16 pay classifications in awards would be cut to just four - a move that could cost workers on the higher levels up to \$400. "At a time when we are starved of skilled labour, ACCI is proposing that we don't reward people for improving their skills," she said.

The chamber's chief executive, Peter Hendy, said people's current wages would be protected under the proposal.

He said the current system was complicated and clumsy. The chamber's assistant director of industrial relations, Scott Barklamb, said rather than allowing employers to cut their wages bill, the chamber's proposed system would "ensure more employees could have their wages determined by productivity".

Unions are concerned about the submission because of the perceived close relationship between the chamber and the Government.

Headline: Business lobby's plan could cut pay for 800,000, say unions

Author: Nick O'Malley

Edition: First

Section: News and Features

[[Previous](#)] [[Major News - ACTU Mentions](#)] [[Next](#)]

Copyright © Fairfax

