



Queensland

Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Rules 2011

Explanatory Notes for SL 2011 No. 237

made under the

Industrial Relations Act 1999

General outline

Short title

Industrial Relations (Tribunals) Rules 2011.

Authorising law

Section 338 of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The objective of the legislation is to provide rules for the just and expeditious disposition of the business of the Industrial Court of Queensland, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, the Industrial Magistrates Court and the Industrial Registrar at a minimum of expense.

The new rules are required to align with amendments to the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* and other Acts which refer matters to the tribunals, since the last major overhaul of the Rules in 2000. They also provide for matters that may be dealt with by the tribunals under the new *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which is to commence on 1 January 2012.

Achievement of policy objectives

The Rules achieve the objective by regulating the practice and procedure to be followed by the tribunals and providing a simple guide to assist parties and others in bringing, prosecuting, defending and enforcing matters before the tribunals and orders and decisions of the tribunals.

Consistency with policy objectives of authorising law

The Rules are consistent with the principal object of the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*, in that they are part of the framework for industrial relations in Queensland that supports economic prosperity and social justice.

Inconsistency with policy objectives of other legislation

The Rules are not inconsistent with the policy objectives of other State laws.

Benefits and costs of implementation

The Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, Industrial Magistrates and Industrial Registrar are tribunals that already exist so there will be no costs of implementation apart from the costs involved in ensuring that the new rules are brought to the attention of the various stakeholders. This will largely be undertaken by notifications on the tribunals' website.

The benefits will be in the provision of a more efficient and effective service with up to date rules for matters that may go to the tribunals under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* and other Acts.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Rules are consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

There was an extensive consultation process headed up by a Steering Committee of stakeholders under the chairmanship of the President of the

Industrial Court of Queensland and Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

Consultation was also undertaken with the Chief Industrial Magistrate and other commissioners of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission as well as relevant Government Departments.

The members of the Steering Committee were:

President Hall

The Queensland Council of Unions

The Local Government Association of Queensland

The Australian Workers Union

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Bar Association (Christopher Murdock)

Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Office of Fair and Safe Work Queensland)

Industrial Registrar

ENDNOTES

- 1 Laid before the Legislative Assembly on . . .
- 2 The administering agency is the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.