



Government  
of South Australia

23 September 2019

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

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Dear member of the labour hire industry

### Update on the Labour Hire Licensing Scheme

I am writing to inform you of the Government's intention to amend the laws regulating the operations of labour hire businesses in South Australia.

As you may recall, the Government has sought to repeal these laws – a measure that, regrettably, does not have the support of the Labor Opposition or the Crossbench in the Legislative Council.

Unfortunately, it's become clear that despite our best efforts to address some of the flaws in the legislation by exempting certain businesses, there are still problems which can only be remedied by further amending the legislation.

Given the repeal of this scheme is not feasible in this Parliament, we are seeking amendments to ensure the law applies to labour hire providers operating within high risk industries where workers are vulnerable to exploitation.

Prior to the federal election, both major parties committed to a national scheme with funding in the Budget. Consistent with the Migrant Workers' Taskforce Final Report of March 2019 and in line with what is currently being considered at a national level, it is proposed that the scope of the scheme be narrowed to labour hire providers who provide workers to undertake the following types of work:

- Horticulture processing;
- Meat processing;
- Seafood processing;
- Cleaning; and
- Trolley collection.

This was welcome news, and it is anticipated that any national scheme will supersede state-based regimes.

We intend to advance these amendments as expeditiously as possible to ensure vulnerable workers have protection, as well as remove unnecessary red tape from those businesses who do not operate in high-risk industries.

While **no action is required at this point** by organisations that have already applied for a licence under the current scheme, it is important to note that any legislative

amendments may have an impact on which businesses are captured by the laws.

Should the legislation pass, we anticipate some businesses that are currently captured by the scheme will no longer require a licence. Those businesses may be entitled to a partial refund of their licence fee.

We will continue to update all licence applicants, along with relevant stakeholder groups, throughout the legislative process and ahead of the commencement of these proposed changes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vickie Chapman', with a large circular flourish at the end.

**VICKIE CHAPMAN MP**  
DEPUTY PREMIER  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Enc      *Factsheet – Proposed changes to labour hire laws*