

Transcript

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Compere: PETER VAN ONSELEN
Item: INNES WILLOX, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GROUP, SPEAKS TO MEDIA.

INNES WILLOX: What I think we had today was a serious discussion that went for over three hours between Federal Government, a range of ministers obviously, business, community leaders, and unions about areas where we can agree. And what we found today is that we are operating in a rapidly changing world, a dynamic world where the nature of work is changing, the nature of the economy is changing, and then how can government best respond to that through levers such as fiscal policy, taxation, the general productivity agenda, to meet the changing needs of the workplace, to get the growth that we need to drive us forward.

This is one step in a process. There will be continued engagement with government over this and we are all very encouraged by that, and it's important that we do continue that dialogue. We were able to give the Government a lot of feedback from our members, the business community more generally was able to do that, around the sort of pressures that business is feeling, and that went for all the other groups as well.

So I think the Government came away today with a better understanding of what is happening in the workplace, what is happening in the economy more broadly, and now with a sort of a wider suite of options for it to pursue in terms of policy levers to make the adjustments that we need. We were really encouraged by today's discussion. We had discussions around both the revenue side of fiscal policy as well as the spending side, and it was, I would say, a really frank and fruitful conversation. And we are very encouraged that there will be many more including with the states; and that's a key point that came out of today, that we all need to engage more with the states to push this growth and reform agenda forward.

So we were really encouraged with today. It was a really positive step. There is still a lot more work to be done, and obviously Government will have more to say about that in due course.