

1 November 2002

DEFENCE FORCE REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL

MATTERs NO. 17 and 18 OF 2002

ADF WORKPLACE REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENT: 2002 – 2004

and

FLOW ON OF ALLOWANCE INCREASES TO ONE AND TWO STAR OFFICERS

Statement

THIS MATTER RELATES TO A PROPOSED WORKPLACE REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE (ADF). THE ARRANGEMENT WILL APPLY FROM 7 NOVEMBER 2002 UNTIL 6 MAY 2004. THE TRIBUNAL HAS HEARD SUBMISSIONS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AND THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE INTERVENOR, THE ARMED FORCES FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA. THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HAS SEPARATELY ADVISED THAT IT SUPPORTS THE ADF PROPOSAL.

THE EFFECT OF THE SUBMISSIONS OF MR HOWATT ON BEHALF OF THE ARMED FORCES FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA IS THAT THE ARRANGEMENT IS DEFICIENT IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS AND EFFECTIVELY INVITES US TO AMEND THE ARRANGEMENT. OUR FUNCTION IN THIS MATTER IS A LIMITED ONE IN THAT OUR ONLY OPTIONS ARE TO APPROVE OR NOT APPROVE THE ARRANGEMENT. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO ARBITRATE IN THE TRADITIONAL SENSE.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE APPROVE THE WORKPLACE REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENT: 2002 – 2004 AND MAKE DETERMINATIONS TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE SALARY INCREASES AND ADJUSTMENTS TO PAY RELATED ALLOWANCES OVER THE PERIOD OF THE ARRANGEMENT. THE FIRST PAY INCREASE OF 3% WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 7 NOVEMBER 2002, THE SECOND INCREASE WILL APPLY ON AND FROM 3 JULY 2003, THE DATES PROPOSED IN THE ARRANGEMENT.

WE ARE ALSO PREPARED TO APPLY THE ALLOWANCE INCREASES TO ONE AND TWO STAR OFFICERS AS SOUGHT BY THE ADF AND SUPPORTED BY THE PARTIES. THESE INCREASES WILL APPLY TO THESE MEMBERS ON AND FROM THE COMMON DATES 7 NOVEMBER 2002 AND 3 JULY 2003.

THE TRIBUNAL RAISED A NUMBER OF ISSUES DURING THE COURSE OF PROCEEDINGS. WE WILL MAKE REFERENCE TO THESE IN OUR REASONS FOR DECISION WHICH WE WILL PUBLISH IN DUE COURSE.