

Alex Baden
Guardian Australia
Level 3, 19 Foster St
Surry Hills NSW 2010



24 September 2018

By email

Dear Ms Baden

Re: Protected Action Ballot

The MEAA writes in relation to its application for a protected action ballot order currently before the Fair Work Commission.

The MEAA is disappointed that the Company has sought to obstruct its employees right to ballot for protected industrial action.

In the course of the proceedings, it has become apparent that the Company has misunderstood the position of MEAA and its members in our attempts to reach an agreement on a range of issues. In order to rectify any misunderstanding, and to continue the bargaining process, MEAA seeks a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to continue to try and reach agreement.

MEAA members at the Guardian are passionate about the work that the Company produces and recognises that the Company depends upon the support of readers and its progressive branding. Members are deeply concerned about the conflict this matter has the potential to generate, and the potential for damage to the company's brand by media coverage that is outside of either party's control. Members are also very concerned about the cost to the Company in opposing the application.

Ultimately, the members consider that the time and resources of both the Company and its employees are better spent trying to resolve the outstanding claims than participate in costly legal procedures.

In these circumstances, MEAA intends to withdraw the application for a protected action ballot to allow further time for the parties to continue bargaining and to try to reach an agreement in a productive manner.

We look forward to your response, and provision of your availability for a meeting.

Yours faithfully

Katelin McInerney
Director, Media
Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance
Tel 02 9333 0943

