

## **1. Are there any unintended consequences from the proposed reforms?**

I am an Australian citizen and geotechnical engineer with 25 years experience who has been offered a two year contract working with my UK based company in Perth. It is a leading consultancy company that is currently investing in the Australian economy and one of my roles there will be to provide further growth for the business. I will be based in a part of the country that has a significant shortage of skills in the industry I work in. We currently own a house in UK and have lived here for twenty years (my wife is Scottish).

The proposed changes to LAFHA will mean we may not be able to afford to live in Perth as we do not currently have a Australian residence, the dollar is strong and rent is very high. No steps are being taken to assist Australian citizens who have worked abroad for a number of years, especially those with skills that are in desperate short supply.

In addition it will be even more difficult for companies to identify and attract the right calibre of staff to service the mining and oil/gas industries in the future.

## **2. What practical aspects of the proposed reforms need further consideration?**

Whilst the proposals will improve fairness for citizens currently living in Australia (with respect to temporary overseas visitors) however it will also create an unfair advantage with respect to Australian citizens who are wishing to return to Australia after a period of work overseas and/or who have married and settled abroad and no longer have property in Australia. It will actually penalise all returning Australians who do not have property.

It will also discourage companies to recruit high quality staff from overseas with skills of limited availability in Australia.

The citizen issue could easily be resolved by including LAFHA to all Australian citizens who have lived overseas for some time provided they can demonstrate genuine permanent residence for a period of time outside Australia.

Kind Regards

**Mike Wilyman**