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**PLUMBING AND PIPE TRADES EMPLOYEES UNION / CEPU PLUMBING
DIVISION VIC BRANCH (PPTEU)**

AND

WILSON PLUMBING & DRAINAGE PTY LTD
AAA PREMIER ROOFING PTY LTD
GEELONG ROOFING PTY LKTD

MELBOURNE METRO TUNNEL PROJECT

RE: ALLEGED INCORRECT SITE ALLOWANCE PAYMENT

3 JUNE 2020

009-2020

STATEMENT

[1] The PPTEU notified a dispute on 28 May 2020 alleging the incorrect payment of site allowance on the Melbourne Metro Tunnel Project.

[2] The Panel convened a Conference of the parties on 3 June 2020 via Zoom Video Conference. Wilson Plumbing and Geelong Roofing were represented by the Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association (MPMSA).

[3] The PPTEU had notified the dispute including additional employers, namely Ricky Morris Plumbing and Gasfitting Pty Ltd and Allstaff Airconditioning Pty Ltd. At the Conference the PPTEU withdrew the dispute against these 2 named companies.

[4] The relevant Enterprise Agreements are as follows:

- *Wilson Plumbing & drainage and CEPU – Plumbing Division Victorian Branch Enterprise Agreement 2016-2018*
- *Geelong Roofing Proprietary Limited Trading as Geelong Roofing Pty Ltd and CEPU Plumbing Division Victorian Branch Enterprise Agreement 2016- 2019*
- *AAA Premier Roofing Pty Ltd and CEPU Plumbing division Victorian Branch Enterprise Agreement 2016-2019*

[5] The history to this matter revolves around an agreement negotiated with the principal for the Project, CYP, and other unions represented on the Project. Those negotiations led to an agreement that, if agreed and implemented through the usual proper processes with the relevant employers, could deliver a number of standard provisions across the site, including inclement weather, standard site allowance, critical works provisions and wage outcomes, together with other measures. This appears to the Panel to have been a common sense approach to ensure consistent work practices such as inclement weather across the site, the alternative to which could lead to significant difficulties for the Project. It is also noted that disputation may also otherwise arise in the application of the differing the site allowance tables of the Agreements for some of the employers. It is apparent that such agreements were entered by various employers, including CYP and all the various unions, except, hitherto, with the PPTEU, notwithstanding the PPTEU's endeavours.

[6] It is apparent that at least with respect to Wilson Plumbing and other plumbing contractors, Ricky Morris and Chadoak, that agreement has now been reached with the PPTEU to reflect the agreed terms in appropriate instruments for each employer. The Panel was advised that these processes were now underway.

[7] The PPTEU also indicated that it was not pursuing the dispute against Geelong Roofing or AAA Premier Roofing at this stage given the works performed were principally undertaken during the early works programme for the Project.

[8] On this basis the Panel considers the dispute resolved.

[9] The PPTEU indicated it was likely that there may be further similar disputes arise unless some appropriate awareness of these arrangements were known to potential other contractors that may work on the project in future. The Panel noted that this was a matter for the parties, but that a common sense approach was expected would be taken in order to avoid the consequences of not embracing a standard approach to the relevant work practices. In this regard the MPMSA echoed this expectation and indicated it would communicate with its members to assist in this process.

[10] The Panel notes that it remains open to the PPTEU to seek a relisting of the matter in the event that this becomes necessary.



Peter Parkinson
Chairman



Tony Cordier
Panel Member