

MEDIA RELEASE

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Constructive, cooperative and collective way forward at Thales

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia today welcome the announcement of a constructive relationship agreement with defence contractor Thales.

The agreement signed by five unions – APESMA, AMWU, AWU, ETU and NUW – can be partly attributed to the Fair Work legislation which recognises the value of collective bargaining and union representation and information rights in the workplace.

APESMA CEO Chris Walton said that the agreement was a win-win for both Thales and its employees.

"We welcome this positive step forward which is a great model for workplaces all around Australia to adopt. There is ample evidence that workplaces with union collective agreements have happier, better paid employees and are more productive, successful businesses."

"Our members have fantastic technical skills and experience and want to work with their employers to find better ways of doing things. This agreement shows that Thales is willing to respect the professional values and rights of its employees, and listen to their opinions.

"Today's announcement underscores the opportunities for Australian businesses and working families. We can both work together to secure better jobs and a better future for all Australians."

"While we will always put the member's interests first, this agreement recognises the mutual interest we have in creating productive, high skilled, highly paid and hopefully growing workplaces"

"Unions want Thales to be a successful company. This constructive relationship agreement gives us a pathway to achieve better outcomes"

"I'm not sure a constructive relationship agreement would have been possible under Work Choices."

"The constructive relationship agreement is the type of positive arrangements that can be reached under the new *Fair Work Act*"

A copy of the constructive relationship agreement is available.

For comment: APESMA CEO, Chris Walton (03) 9695 8828 or 0417 368 552.

The Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia (APESMA) is the largest national non-profit organisation representing professional employees including scientists, engineers, managers, architects, IT professionals, pharmacists, surveyors, veterinarians, collieries staff and many other professionals. Our 25,000+ members are found in all areas of public and private employment across Australia. Members range from senior managers, and employees of the largest enterprises, to the self employed and recent graduates. We also promote your professions to the next generation of professionals, with over 15,000 student members.