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# MEDIA RELEASE

## The Services Union Questions Council 'plan'.

The Services Union (whose members work at Livingstone Shire Council) has been reading with interest, Council's plan for the future and in particular the comments from CEO Chris Murdoch in today's Morning Bulletin newspaper.

Any organisation which says that there is, "...the need for council to grow into a smaller, more efficient and effective organisation...", "needs to come under close scrutiny.

Any local Council looking to reduce staffing and resources deserves to be held to account by the local community which relies on those services.

"We are very concerned for the jobs of our members in this small community, the loss of which will inevitably impact the local economy and undoubtedly impact the service levels currently delivered across the region."

The Services Union is committed to fighting for every local job at Council.

"We know that the Councillors are out and about in the local community talking about the great jobs employees do and are proud of the services the Council delivers," Mr Henderson said.

"Councillors will be asked by the Executive to make decisions about these jobs and they need to keep in the forefront of their minds the staff working hard every single day for their local community."

"The key question for our community, and the Councillors is whether it will really be possible to maintain all the current service levels if reductions are made."

"If you rely on services and assistance from Council, it is worth asking whether you can continue to rely on the work currently done by Council staff – each of those employees does work that results in a service for our community."

It is misleading for Council to blame the de-amalgamation process for the need to axe jobs and services now, years later. At the time Council made the decision to cut over 30 jobs with the intention of putting the organisation in a more sustainable long-term position and to avoid future redundancies.

"Since then, Council has made decisions which of course have had cost impacts and have been great for the community, but do have consequences."

"So, to wipe your hands of this decision-making and then to lay blame at the feet of what happened over four years ago, has our alarm bells ringing," Mr Henderson said.

"The onus is on Mayor Bill Ludwig and all Councillors to do the right thing."

"The Services Union will be watching very closely and will continue to fight for local jobs," Mr Henderson said.

W [theservicesunion.com.au](http://theservicesunion.com.au)

P 07 3844 5300  
F 07 3846 5046

AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,  
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL  
AND SERVICES UNION QUEENSLAND  
(SERVICES  
AND NORTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE)  
BRANCH  
ABN 86 351 665 653

TRADING AS  
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:  
Neil Henderson  
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT:  
Jennifer Thomas

... ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
Media Officer Belinda Hogan-Collis on 0401 710 039

