

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Brisbane City Council Workers Consider Industrial Action

25 JUNE 2013

Members of The Services Union working at Brisbane City Council (BCC) are about to consider taking protected industrial action to protect their workplace conditions in what have become drawn out negotiations.

Members have been left with no choice but to apply to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) for ballot orders because Council management are intent on removing current working conditions to a decreased workforce who are trying to deliver high quality services to their community.

Council Management continue to use the line that core services will not be neglected regardless of its workforce reduction of one thousand workers in the last 12 months and the outsourcing of jobs.

Acting Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said, Council management think they can pull the wool over the Brisbane community's eyes.

"Our Union finds it absurd that in the recent Council Budget, Mayor Quirk talked about an 'internal rationalisation program' in the same breath as outlining the investment needed for the prosperity of our city."

"Let's look at the facts. Brisbane is one of the top 10 fastest growing regions in the world. Council have outlined their future plans for Brisbane which includes growth corridors and greater infrastructure and; they have also taken on the management of South Bank Parklands, Roma Street Parklands, Roma Street Forum and Emma Miller Place."

"How can this be possibly achieved and how can high quality services continue to be delivered by 'internally rationalising' the workforce and cost shifting?" Ms Thomas said.

"Our members are hard-working dedicated people who love their jobs and strive daily to deliver expected services to the Brisbane community, which is also their community."

"Presently, they are overstretched, under resourced and working to capacity by Council management who seem intent on stripping them of some of their previously won working rights and conditions."

"I think the Brisbane community is starting to look around and see the physical evidence of what the 'internal rationalisation program' actually looks like."

"Our members, whilst facing an uphill battle of 'internal rationalisation', deserve to maintain their current employment conditions and are willing to progress their claims to ensure that the Brisbane community continues to get the services it deserves," Ms Thomas said.

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