

MEDIA RELEASE

BE PART OF
A REAL CHANGE

Costello Razor Gang Sells Out Queensland's Energy Future.

Peter Costello, head of the Commission of Audit, handed down his final report to the Queensland Liberal National Party (LNP) Government today, confirming the Commission recommends the sale of Queensland's publicly owned energy assets to the private sector.

These include State owned energy generators, CS Energy and Stanwell Corporation and network businesses, Energex, Ergon Energy and Powerlink.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union, Jennifer Thomas said that the report confirms a continuation of the slash and burn approach to jobs and services that has been the hallmark of the Queensland LNP Government since taking office.

"Privatisation has been the LNP plan all along and today the truth has finally been laid bare for all to see. It doesn't matter whether it's energy, transport, health, education or any other service you can think of, everything is up for sale under this Government" Ms. Thomas said.

There are significant question marks over the integrity of the figures used in the Commission of Audit report. Last year the Government was forced to apologise publicly for misrepresenting state debt during the election as being \$100 billion when in reality it was \$35 billion less.

"The LNP have a recent history of cooking the books. How can we trust the audit figures? At the very least, the audit report figures need to be checked and verified independently."

"Today is a dark day for Queenslanders and our members working in the energy industry. The Queensland community cannot risk having their electricity placed into the hands of private companies who will no doubt put profits before service," Ms. Thomas said.

The Services Union will vehemently oppose any move to sell state owned energy assets.

Privatisation has been tried before and only delivered steep power prices increases as seen in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria. These three State have the third, fourth and fifth highest energy prices in the world respectively.*

"The cost of living, power prices in particular, keep rapidly rising. We are still reeling from the news of a possible 21 per cent power price hike in Queensland."

GROUND FLOOR
32 PEEL STREET
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

PO BOX 3347
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

W 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

QUEENSLAND SERVICES,
INDUSTRIAL UNION OF
EMPLOYEES
ABN 13 540 483 194

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

SECRETARY:
Kathrine Nelson
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas

“The same tired old lines about privatisation benefiting consumers by driving down costs due to increased competition have been proven wrong time after time; it does nothing but impact on service and network standards, not to mention jobs.”

“Thousands of workers in the energy sector now have a question mark hanging over their working futures, which is a slap in the face from Peter Costello, considering the heroic job they do switching the lights back on after floods and cyclones. “

“Queenslanders want and expect a strong and reliable network with a highly skilled workforce to respond to extreme weather events. Selling energy assets will see profits put before service and critically hinder the reliability of our network,” Ms. Thomas said.

Media Contacts:

Secretary - Kath Nelson 0401 106 669

Assistant Secretary - Jennifer Thomas 0417 737 779

GROUND FLOOR
32 PEEL STREET
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

PO BOX 3347
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

W 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

QUEENSLAND SERVICES,
INDUSTRIAL UNION OF
EMPLOYEES
ABN 13 540 483 194

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

SECRETARY:
Kathrine Nelson
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas