

MEDIA RELEASE

Costly Decisions May Be Costly For Jobs and the Gold Coast Community.

30 APRIL 2014

The recent article in the Gold Coast Bulletin (*CEO Cops Blame For IT Cost Explosion, 28 April 2014*) outlined a number poor decisions taken by Gold Coast City Council (Council) which may lead to job cuts and the outsourcing of services provided by Council.

While Council may debate who is to blame for poorly planned and costly decisions such as the disconnection of the water carrier Allconnex and the decision to pay out the IBM Australia contract, The Services Union is deeply concerned that these mistakes will put our members' jobs at risk.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said these decisions could lead to the outsourcing of essential services for the Gold Coast region.

"Recently our Union received correspondence from Council to notify pending changes to the provision of ICT Services, with Council noting that it 'has resolved to explore alternative methods for the provision of certain of its ICT Services,'" Mr Henderson said.

While the correspondence from Council maintains no decision has been made as yet, Council has included the following in its Frequently Asked Questions:

'After Council has considered market responses to the various service bundle options and has decided which services are to be provided by external service providers, it will consult with the unions and affected employees.'

"It is outrageous that the jobs of our members are now at risk because of the failures of Council management," Mr Henderson said.

"We are very worried that the Council will make more poor choices. Our Union believes that the Council should commit to not contract out services which will affect the jobs of our members or affect the delivery of these services to the community, so that we all know where we stand."

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