

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Energy Job Cuts - Electricity Services in Jeopardy!

10 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Services Union which represents workers in Queensland's Energy Industry is concerned about the State's electricity services being jeopardised due to job cuts at Ergon Energy, Energex and SPARQ Solutions.

Both Ergon and Energex have been offering workers voluntary redundancies, with Ergon anticipating hundreds of jobs will go in the second round of redundancies.

At this stage Energex has been unable to commit to a number of positions that will go but it is anticipated that this number will be significant.

SPARQ Solutions which provides essential information technology (IT) support for Queensland's electricity suppliers will lose close to 10 per cent of its workforce in an attempt to cut costs.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said, we do not want to see a repeat of 2004 when major electricity outages were experienced across Queensland.

"We have already seen what great affect it can have on the whole Queensland community when there are not enough workers to supply an essential service like our electricity supply," Ms Nelson said.

"The major outages that occurred at this time spurred on the Sommerville Inquiry, which recommended the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of our electricity network."

"We have seen the benefits of a well maintained network over the last seven years and now have an electricity service which is in good working order."

"Unfortunately, we could go back to exactly where we came from, which will be dire for the people of Queensland," Ms Nelson said.

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