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MEDIA RELEASE

Ergon Energy Axes 500 Jobs Just In Time For Christmas!

Queensland's Electricity Services Further Jeopardised As We Approach Storm Season.

Ergon Energy, Queensland's regional electricity supplier, yesterday announced 500 jobs will be axed between now and 30 June 2013 with the majority to disappear before Christmas, further jeopardising the State's electricity network.

Ergon Energy's announcement comes on top of a previous announcement where 52 meter reader jobs will now be contracted out with those permanent employees to be made redundant.

Ergon Energy is following in the footsteps of Energex, who recently announced they are cutting up to 845 jobs and Stanwell Corporation who run the Tarong Power Station who have determined to axe 64 jobs.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said, following the 15,000 job losses in the Public Sector, and the slashing of funding and job losses in the social and community sector, the Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) are now in the firing line.

"We are talking about the workers who deliver Queensland's electricity to all of our communities losing their jobs, which is extremely alarming especially as we come closer to the unpredictable storm season," Ms Nelson said.

"Queenslanders do not deserve a repeat of 2004, when major outages were experienced across the State."

"The Sommerville Inquiry gave very clear recommendations after the 2004 fiasco, that we must have the ongoing upgrade and maintenance of our electricity network."

"We have seen the many benefits of a well maintained network over the last seven years and now have an electricity service which is good working order. This is now being jeopardised by Ergon Energy seeking to cost cuts by attacking jobs and the people who do these jobs," Ms Nelson said.

"This comes at a time when regional communities are already suffering and workers will now face an ominous Christmas with little security about their futures".

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