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MEDIA RELEASE

Noosa, Livingstone, Mareeba and Douglas Council Candidates - Are they Committed to their Community?

The Services Union, which represents Queensland local government workers, is looking forward to the upcoming elections for the reformed **Noosa, Livingstone, Mareeba and Douglas Councils** on the 9 November 2013.

This week, Delegations from The Services Union, are seeking meetings with each of the Mayoral Candidates to make them aware of member concerns, their potential constituents, and asking them to indicate their commitment to maximising local permanent employment and minimising redundancies within the newly re-established Councils.

Letters seeking the same commitment have been sent to each Councillor Candidate.

Our Union has been working closely with members in de-amalgamating Councils ensuring appropriate employment safeguards and decent and transparent transition arrangements are put in place for affected workers.

Acting Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said it has been a lengthy process and a difficult time for all concerned.

"We are still currently working with the Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Cairns and Tablelands Councils with the final transition arrangements to establish the Transfer List," Ms Thomas said.

"This has been difficult with the existing four councils having to restructure as a consequence of de-amalgamation. Members not captured by de-amalgamation are concerned about job security as they move through the council restructure. Members who find themselves on the Transfer list are also concerned about employment security and their capacity to remain in the community should their employment not be continued. "

"With the election now upon us for the newly re-established Councils, our aim is to ensure workers on the Transfer List are provided with on-going job security including fair wages and working conditions."

"All communities who voted for de-amalgamation voiced loudly they wanted their own local Council staffed by local employees. Therefore, we will be calling on Mayoral candidates to commit to maximising permanent employment and minimising redundancies when the new Councils come into effect on the 1 January 2013," Ms Thomas said.

The Services Union believes reducing staff in these councils will hurt the community if services are not maintained. A reduction in staff will also impact the local economy, as they will no longer have an income to spend in local businesses because they may leave the area in search of suitable employment.

"Our members are proud workers of their local community who want to continue to deliver the very best services their communities deserve and we look forward to meeting with all candidates," Ms Thomas said.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

ACTING SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas
ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson