

7 NOVEMBER 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Mayor Comerford lies to the Council Workers and Rate Payers of Mackay over the Propel Partnership Deal Rally for Mackay Jobs Next Week!

Mayor Deirdre Comerford should be ashamed of herself!

Her underhanded deal with Propel and her total lack of consultation with the Mackay Regional Council workforce and The Services Union shows a total lack of respect for the community in which she has been elected to represent.

Although she will claim that staff were 'consulted' on 5 November 2014 at a staff meeting, the PowerPoint presentation that the Project Director Transformation was to use to explain the proposal did not work for the first half of the meeting nor were staff allowed to ask any questions.

Coupled with all this are the Mayor's lies that this deal will bring about a reduction in rates. One only has to look at the Ipswich City Council experience with Propel to know this is a farce!

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said jobs for the people of the Mackay region should be her priority!

"We know and Mayor Comerford knows that this will inevitably lead to redundancies and we ask the question, 'Why would the Mayor of Mackay sign a deal that will mean job losses for people in her community; the community she is supposed to be looking after?'" Mr Henderson said.

"What is also concerning is the Mayor has grand plans with her Northern Australia Services (NAS) to outsource work at smaller Councils in the region such as Isaac Regional Council and some of the Aboriginal Councils. Why would you take jobs away from these people?"

Propel Partnerships is the trading name of two South East Queensland (SEQ) companies in which the Local Government Association of Queensland is the major shareholder. This decision has come as a considerable shock to staff.

"They are extremely upset. These are women and men of the Mackay community who love their work and love delivering services to their community," Mr Henderson said.

"The other very alarming thing about this whole debacle is the other shareholders

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Belinda Hogan-Collis, Media/Communications Officer on 07 3010 4446 or 0401 710 039.

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

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas

are not local, which means money in the pockets of business in SEQ and beyond, not in the pockets of people living in Mackay."

"This model, adopted at Ipswich City Council, has resulted in drastic staff reductions, increased staff turnover and inefficient performance monitoring."

"The changes there have also had a direct and negative effect on the quality of customer service, the local interface of the business and staff morale," Mr Henderson said.

The Ipswich experience has shown that after resignations, staff are not replaced and Propel's answer to this is to try and 'multi-task' remaining staff, whilst never providing any training.

"Now at Ipswich the processing of work overrides the servicing, because there is just not the staff employed to do the work," Mr Henderson said.

"With all this in mind, the flow on effect for local workers will be detrimental to local economies and for growth in the Mackay Region, which is hardly a 'modern' way to set Mackay up for future prosperity."

The Services Union will be holding two rallies next week and all media is welcome to attend. Secretary Neil Henderson will be attending and available for comment on both days.

RALLY FOR MACKAY JOBS

MONDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2014

12 Noon to 1pm

Front of Council, Gordon Street

TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2014

1pm - 2pm

Front of Council, Gordon Street