

MEDIA RELEASE

De-Amalgamation Delegation Update

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.

Over the last week, Delegations from The Services Union have sought to meet with each of the Mayoral Candidates to make them aware of members 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 was sent to each Councillor Candidate.

Acting Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said, the union has been able to have direct communication with each of the Mayoral candidates who were sympathetic to members' situations and that of the employees on the Transfer Lists in general.

"The majority indicated their commitment," Ms Thomas said.

"It is pleasing to see that of the pledges returned none of the Mayoral candidates have said they would not commit to the principals of maximising local permanent employment and minimising redundancies contained within the pledge."

"What is unfortunate is many of the Councillor Candidates across the re-establishing Councils have not returned pledges. This means that prior to election day our members won't know what level of commitment these potential candidates will give to them as employees and community members," Ms Thomas said.

"It is pleasing none of the Councillor Candidates who have returned pledges have said they would not commit to the principals of maximising local permanent employment and minimising redundancies contained within the pledge."

"Correspondence received from some Councillor Candidates expressed an inability to commit until they are across all aspects of the Councils financial position and operational requirements prior to being elected. Many stated support of the staff transferring," Ms Thomas said.

The Services Union has been and will continue to work with the Transfer Managers of the re-established Council and welcome the opportunity to meet with the elected Mayors and Councillors of the re-established Councils to ensure appropriate employment safeguards and decent and transparent transition arrangements are put in place for affected workers on the Transfer List.

"It has been a lengthy process and a difficult time for all concerned," Ms Thomas said.

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ABN 13 540 483 194

TRADING AS
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SECRETARY:
Kathrine Nelson
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas

"However, 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 disposable income to spend in local businesses and may even have to leave the area in search of suitable employment," Ms Thomas said.

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