

MEDIA RELEASE

Council Staff Vote To Strike

6 MARCH 2018

Members of The Services Union employed at City of Gold Coast as librarians, counter staff, administration officers, planners, engineers, inspectors and supervisors have voted to commence protected industrial action starting this Friday, 9 March 2018.

Union members voted to initiate the rolling stoppages, as well as work bans, in response to the City's refusal to negotiate a new Certified Agreement which maintains current working conditions and delivers a fair pay increase.

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said the City's proposed agreement would remove job security and destroy equal pay, while only offering a pay-rise half a percentage point above CPI.

"Our members have been angered by the Council's attempt to unilaterally rewrite rosters in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games while ignoring the requirement to notify and consult with affected staff," Mr Henderson said.

Yesterday, The Services Union successfully ran a dispute in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission which resulted in the City being ordered to adhere to the consultation provisions in the Council's current Agreement.

"We would've liked to partner with the City of Gold Coast Council from the word go in terms of getting the rostering right for the Games, and we had asked repeatedly for details of what the City had planned, but they simply chose to ignore their workforce and pushed ahead with the roster changes without consultation," Mr Henderson said.

"For a Council this size it's simply unacceptable to so flagrantly ignore the rules."

"The failure by the City to talk to its workforce has become commonplace. It's no wonder our members don't want to accept a sub-standard new Certified Agreement when the City can't even keep to the conditions of the current one."

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This industrial unrest comes at a time when morale amongst the City's staff is at an all-time low, a situation aggravated by murmurings of wholesale staff reductions post-Games.

"Our members are the people who deliver vital frontline community services to the ratepayers. They've been increasingly under the pump in the lead-up to the Games," Mr Henderson said.

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
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT:
Jennifer Thomas

... ENDS

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"It's our members who are actually delivering the event and ensuring it runs smoothly, not the Mayor and CEO who will take all the credit."

"For them to be expected to sign up to an agreement that would leave them fearful for their jobs, is just ludicrous," Mr Henderson said.

Unions representing The Services Union's outdoor colleagues have also voted to take similar industrial action.