

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Noosa Shire Council Management Showing It's True Colours!

7 MAY 2015

A Bill introduced today in the Queensland Parliament delivers on an election promise to repeal the unfair laws forced on Noosa Shire Council employees (and all local government employees) by the former Newman Government.

The Bill restores important safeguards, meaning employees will be able to maintain or expand many of the features in existing enterprise bargaining agreements.

This is welcome news to The Services Union which represents employees at Noosa Shire Council.

The Union had hoped Council Management would have done the right thing and ceased bargaining until the new legislation is enacted, as well as paying a well overdue administrative pay rise to its workforce.

However, they still seem determined to continue to try and strip away hard fought for working conditions such as parental leave, rostered days off (RDOs) and consultation provisions. Secretary of the Services Union, Neil Henderson, said Council Management is showing its true colours.

"We can continue discussions around these unpopular workplace issues. However, Council Management has made it near impossible to have any form of discussion in good faith," Mr Henderson said.

"A fortnight ago, The Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) agreed that workplace delegates and union officials have the right to attend bargaining meetings. But Council Management has continued to ignore the QIRC recommendations."

"Unfortunately, the position taken by Council Management is an attempt to ensure employees are not fully represented," Mr Henderson said.

Other Councils have ceased bargaining and have paid a decent interim wage increase to employees. Instead, Noosa Shire Council Management has ploughed rate payers' money into negotiations that will reduce workers' conditions if successful.

"To be totally clear, these negotiations have never been about big pay increases," Mr Henderson said.

"Our members were never comfortable with the manner in which their conditions were removed and they were definitely not happy about the attacks on their job security."

"These negotiations have also been about the ability for Council employees to ensure future negotiations are on a fair and level playing field."

"But it seems Council management don't want to play fair which is extremely disappointing considering employees continued to work hard during the whole de-amalgamation process," Mr Henderson said.

"Our Union will continue to advocate for an interim pay increase on behalf of these employees who love their work and love providing essential services to their local community."

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