

MEDIA RELEASE

More Pie In The Sky!

10 FEBRUARY 2016

The Services Union which represents hundreds of members at Mackay Regional Council believes Mayor Deirdre Comerford's claims of Council unity in today's Daily Mercury, are just pie in the sky comments that only those with blinkers on would believe!

The extent of the Mayor's claims over the last week which has included 'unfair media coverage', 'creating a culture in council where everyone works together,' and her pride in the 'cultural change that has occurred in Mackay Regional Council,' is ludicrous!

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said he is not sure whether Mayor Comerford is living on the same planet as the rest of us.

"The current Mackay Regional Council Management has to be one of the most combative we have ever had to deal with and I think the local community can see straight through the rewriting of history that Mayor Comerford has been doing over the last week," Mr Henderson said.

"Firstly, there have been three CEOs in three years! The most recent, leaving under extremely controversial circumstances, after only six weeks in the job!"

"Secondly, Senior Executives are running out the door, with the most recent lasting only a month. I would hardly call this unified!"

"Thirdly, a rate freeze was possible due to the hard work and diligence of the Council employees. What did they receive in return for their efforts? A zero per cent wage increase! Why? Because, they simply refused to crumble under the bullying tactics used by management to starve them of a wage increase in exchange for their hard earned conditions," Mr Henderson said.

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Neil Henderson
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"Fourth but by no means last, Mayor Comerford has used her connections through the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) to put Council into private business with Propel, of whom the LGAQ are a partner, and outsourced all customer services functions at Council; meaning a loss of local jobs and hindered service delivery."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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For two years of Mayor Comerford's term employees have gone without a wage increase while Mayor Comerford and the Councillors gave themselves a 2.3 per cent wage increase last July!

Of course the Mayor will now hide behind a claim of "Caretaker" mode preventing her from paying employees a wage increase but there have been plenty of opportunities prior to this and the Mayor has condoned the bullying tactics being utilised by not intervening.

Any claim that the Award review or Appeal being run has prevented Council from paying a wage increase is just another untrue statement with Mackay Regional Council being the only Council within their category to not have paid a wage increase to workers.

If other Councils have been able to do the fair and decent thing by paying employees a wage increase then so to could have Mackay Regional Council.

"Staff morale is at an all-time low at Council and the only reason for this is mismanagement and poor leadership decisions made from the top," Mr Henderson said.

"I urge the local community not to be fooled and giving this team a second go!"