

MEDIA RELEASE

Bundaberg Regional Council - Time To Move Things Forward!

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Recently, employees at Bundaberg Regional Council overwhelmingly voted NO to Council's proposed Certified Agreement which sought to reduce workers conditions of employment.

With this result in mind, The Services Union is now calling on Council Management to move things forward by paying a long overdue interim pay increase to its employees.

Since the change of Government in January of this year, members of the Union requested Council to stop wasting rate payers' money by expending resources in negotiating an Agreement under substandard legislation that the new Government had committed to repealing.

Minister for Industrial Relations Curtis Pitt announced last week that the Queensland Government would indeed repeal these draconian laws enforced on local government workers by the former Newman government. Instead, unlike many other Councils which ceased bargaining and have paid a decent interim wage increase to employees, Bundaberg Regional Council sought to plough rate payers money into negotiations that would reduce workers' conditions if successful.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said these negotiations have always been about the retention of working conditions and the rejection of the establishment of a two-tiered wage system which would have seen new employees paid less.

"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 nor were they happy about the attacks on their job security."

"Employees should not pay the price for Council Management incompetence in not having resolved this matter earlier this year upon the change of government and taken the prudent action then of applying a decent wage increase and rolling over the existing Agreement," Mr Henderson said.

"Our Union will continue to advocate for an interim pay increase on behalf of employees who provide essential services to their local community."

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