

30 April 2013

MEDIA RELEASE

LNP Switches to Stealth Mode on Privatisation

Due to intense pressure from community and union campaigns, the Queensland Liberal and National Party (LNP) Government was today forced to back down in its response to Peter Costello's Commission of Audit recommendations to fully privatise Queensland essential services such as power and transport.

Services Union Secretary Kath Nelson said there is no doubt the political consequence of unequivocal community opposition to privatisation has spooked the Government into squibbing it in their response to the audit recommendations.

"What the LNP Government has proposed is privatisation 'stealth' and I have every confidence that our communities will see straight through it," Ms Nelson said.

"It is absurd to say we will still own the poles, wires, trains and ports, whilst behind the scenes, outsourcing en masse is occurring."

"Buildings and poles don't provide services, people do. The network will not maintain itself, nor will it repair itself after extreme weather or natural disasters."

Privatisation has delivered steep electricity prices increases in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria which are rated third, fourth and fifth highest in the world respectively. Queensland is now set to join them as one the most expensive places in the world for electricity.

"Due to action of the State Government, Queensland will be hit with a massive 21.4% electricity price increase from 1 July 2013," Ms Nelson said.

"Outsourcing entire sections of the operation of these businesses and its workforce will only add to the cost. The data from interstate clearly shows that privatisation and outsourcing will do nothing except increase electricity prices for Queenslanders."

"Rather than act to protect Queensland, the Government is outsourcing work to be sale ready to the highest bidder," Ms Nelson said.

In the meantime, this puts the price and reliability of our Queensland owned and operated services at risk."

Media Contact: Kath Nelson, Secretary 0401106669

GROUND FLOOR
32 PEEL STREET
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

PO BOX 3347
SOUTH BRISBANE
QLD 4101

W theservicesunion.com.au

P 07 3844 5300
F 07 3846 5046

AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL
AND SERVICES UNION
QUEENSLAND (SERVICES
AND NORTHERN
ADMINISTRATIVE) BRANCH
ABN 86 351 665 653

QUEENSLAND SERVICES,
INDUSTRIAL UNION OF
EMPLOYEES
ABN 13 540 483 194

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

SECRETARY:
Kathrine Nelson
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
Jennifer Thomas