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MEDIA RELEASE

Negotiations Take A Turn For The Worse - Act More Like Private Enterprise, Employees Told!

Mackay Regional Council Management has demanded their employees act more like private enterprise, as negotiations for a new Agreement take a turn for the worse.

For months, employees have been trying to negotiate to keep their current conditions and job security as Council prepares to outsource its customer service work to Northern Australia Services (NAS).

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said, Council has continually assured employees they would not use Campbell Newman's Industrial Relations laws to axe their working conditions.

"But this is exactly what they are doing," Mr Henderson said.

"Council employees feel extremely uncertain about their working futures and have little trust in those at the top making major decisions."

"It's easy to see why they feel this way because Council has been putting pressure on employees to take up their substandard offer which is coupled with outsourcing and the termination of managerial positions," Mr Henderson said.

"The Palaszczuk Government is in the process of repealing Newman's legislation, so you have to wonder why they are playing hard ball."

"We think this may be linked to Council outsourcing its customer service functions to NAS, where the focus is generating a profit for the foreign owners who are in partnership with Propel." Mr Henderson said.

"Employees definitely think this is a possibility when their Managers are now being dispersed, by the CEO, to tell staff they need to act more like private enterprise whilst in the same breath asking what will it take for them to sell off their conditions."

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Employees through their union representatives have offered to work with Council to help find savings in order to keep their exiting conditions.

But, to date Council has not taken up their offer.

"This is just an abuse of power! It's clear what the employees want," Mr Henderson said.

"They want to keep their conditions and get on with the job of delivering services to the local community."

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