

# MEDIA RELEASE

## The Privatisation of our Electricity Industry – More Bad News for Queenslanders.

The Services Union, who represents thousands of Queensland Energy Industry workers, believes draft recommendations on the State's Electricity Network handed down this morning by The Independent Review Panel could be dire for the delivery, safety and reliability of our electricity network.

The Draft Recommendations call for Ergon Energy and Energex to merge into one holding company.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said the establishment of the holding company is likely to be the precursor for the Panel's final recommendation that the Queensland Government consider the Privatisation of Ergon Energy and Energex.

"If adopted, these recommendations may see Queenslanders lose the efficient and reliable delivery of electricity to their communities," Ms. Nelson said.

"It has taken a long time for Queenslanders to have a reliable electricity network delivered to them; however in one swoop this could be lost."

"The privatisation of Energex and Ergon Energy may mean further job losses in our regional communities and a reduction in regular maintenance which may ultimately lead to a less reliable network. The Independent Review Panel's recommended reduction to capital expenditure by \$1.4 billion and reduced maintenance is a further blow for our communities."

"Last weekend we witnessed the efficient response provided by Energex workers during the super cell storms and our communities do not deserve to lose this level of service. The response effort could not have been achieved as rapidly if our network had not been regularly maintained and regular investments to the network made," Ms. Nelson said.

The Services Union is very concerned about potential price rises as a result of privatisation, which has been evidenced elsewhere in Australia where electricity networks have been privatised.

"Victoria and South Australia saw massive price increases following privatisation and Queensland can not afford for that to happen here," Ms. Nelson said.

"The delivery of Queensland's safe and reliable electricity network is the responsibility of the State Government and the ownership of these networks needs to remain in the peoples hands." Ms. Nelson said.

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TRADING AS  
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SECRETARY:  
Kathrine Nelson  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:  
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# THE SERVICES UNION

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