

MEDIA RELEASE

The Services Union Calls For Interim Pay Rise For Mackay Regional Council Employees

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The Services Union is calling on Mackay Regional Council Management to pay their employees an interim wage increase after their announcement to 'park' negotiations for a new Enterprise Agreement (EA).

Subsequently, Minister for Industrial Relations Curtis Pitt's announced last week that the Queensland Government would repeal the draconian laws enforced on local government workers by the former Newman Government.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said, the right thing for Council Management to now do by their employees is to pay a decent interim pay increase whilst these relevant legislative changes are finalised.

"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, especially around outsourcing."

"These negotiations have also been about the ability for Council employees to ensure future negotiations are on a fair and level playing field," Mr Henderson said.

The Services Union believes employees should not pay the price for Council Management's incompetence in not having resolved this matter earlier this year upon the change of government.

"This whole saga could have been easily solved after the election of the new State Government if Mackay Regional Council Management ceased bargaining and paid a modest interim wage increase to their employees. This is what some other Councils in Queensland have done," Mr Henderson said.

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"Instead they have wasted and ploughed rate payers' money into negotiations that would reduce workers conditions."

"Our members are proud workers of their local community who want to deliver the very best services the people of Mackay deserve."

"With increases to the cost of living in Mackay, our Union will continue to advocate for a modest interim pay increase on behalf of these employees," Mr Henderson said.

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