

MEDIA RELEASE

More Queensland Workers To Lose Their Jobs! This time – Brisbane City Council IT Workers Jobs To Go Offshore.

25 FEBRUARY 2013

Elected Brisbane City Councillors will make a decision tomorrow on whether to outsource and offshore 55 Information Services Branch (ISB) jobs to an external provider which The Services Union understands is Indian company HCL.

A delegation of affected workers will meet and give a short media conference prior to tomorrow's Council meeting at the raised platform, City Hall, King George Square from 11:30am - 12 midday, calling on elected councillors to reject this proposal.

This proposal comes after Council has already shed 565 fulltime jobs and as Queensland's unemployment rate spirals out of control due to the State Government's public sector job cuts.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union, Jennifer Thomas said if Council makes a formal decision to accept the recommendation to outsource this work, it would have a major impact on employment for employees in the ISB.

"Any decision by Council to outsource work would clearly show, that not only will Council seek to restructure to save costs, they are now prepared to support the offshoring of council work to cheaper overseas labour to achieve the desired cost savings – it's taking the local out of local government," she said.

"This is in direct conflict with Council's objectives of providing 'secure and sustainable employment' and their 'commitment to utilise its own employees to provide Council services'.

"Council has never been prepared to provide a full business case in regards to this issue even though two weeks ago the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) told Council that they are required be more transparent about their outsourcing proposal."

"Whilst Council have been forthcoming in sharing some details about this proposal, Council also applied for and obtained a suppression order to prevent our Union disclosing any of the information they provided," Ms. Thomas said.

The Services Union does not support the outsourcing and offshoring of any Council jobs in local government.

"We know from the updated 2012 National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) report into offshoring of Australian work, that service sector jobs continue to move off shore at a rapid rate, with ITC Support Technicians in the high risk category,"

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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