

MEDIA RELEASE

Newman Government Cuts Ergon Jobs – More Bad News For Regional Communities

28 JANUARY 2014

The announcement by Ergon Energy to slash 116 positions means more bad news for regional Queensland workers and their families.

With 1600 jobs already axed from the energy sector over the last two years, this news is just another hit for regional communities who rely on state assets to provide jobs and support the local economy.

In this latest round, 55 job positions will be lost in Townsville, 45 in Rockhampton, 35 in Toowoomba, 26 in Cairns, 14 in Maryborough and 11 in Mackay. There are also job position losses in other regions including Atherton, Roma, Dalby and Emerald. (Please see attached list).

Acting Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said the union is shocked at the magnitude of the announcement.

“These additional job position losses will have a severe impact on our members, their families and in fact regional Queensland generally,” Mr Henderson said.

“The announcement will also mean appalling outcomes for essential energy services to regional communities in the long term because we believe this is all part of the Newman Government’s privatisation agenda.”

“This announcement suggests a closer alignment with Energex’s structures, and away from Ergon’s regional focus.”

“At this time the future of the industry is uncertain with the Newman Government not clearly announcing its intention in relation to government owned corporations (GOCs) not just in the energy sector but across the board,” Mr Henderson said.

“Local families in these communities rely on their employment at Ergon to keep food on the table. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. The loss of so many positions and the loss of employment which is sure to follow will wash through local economies and affect entire communities.”

The Services Union is now working closely with affected workers at Ergon who now have to submit in writing a justification as to why their position is still required.

“The Newman Government is clearly not thinking about ordinary Queenslanders. Their main concern looks like it is priming the GOCs for privatisation, putting profits before services and people,” Mr Henderson said.

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

ACTING SECRETARY:

Neil Henderson

ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY:

Justine Moran

... ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Belinda Hogan-Collis, Media/Communications Officer on 07 3010 4446 or 0401 710 039.