

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Energy - It's About Getting It Right, Not Privatisation!

8 NOVEMBER 2012

The Services Union agrees with the sentiments in the Energy White Paper released by Federal Minister for Energy Martin Ferguson today that it is about getting the industry right for all Australians not about privatising state owned assets.

The Federal Government does not call for privatisation, instead calls for a level playing field by removing conflicts of interest that may arise from public ownership and recognising that privatisation is a decision for respective state and territory governments.

Secretary of The Services Union Kath Nelson said the Federal Government's announcement is good news, but it does not mean Queensland's electricity assets are safe from the threat of privatisation by the Newman Government.

"We of course are unsure about the Newman Government's agenda on our electricity assets, which our Union adamantly believes must stay in the hands of all Queenslanders," Ms Nelson said.

"However, today's release of the Energy White Paper has now shifted the discussion to one about regulation, pricing and industry related issues."

"This is where our Union has always said the argument should be at all times, as ownership models are nothing more than a distraction for the privateers and not in the public interest."

"It also sets out clearly that Australians deserve secure, reliable, clean and fairly priced services whilst developing our resources via safe and sustainable measures; objectives we agree with."

"Our members have worked hard to have their concerns about privatisation heard and our Union is very pleased that today's announcement reflects these views."

"What will now be watching very closely the agenda that the Newman now pushes in regards to this announcement."

"If the Newman Government gives the slightest indication of wanting to privatise the electricity assets that belong to all Queenslanders, our Union will vehemently fight any such proposal," Ms Nelson said.

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