

MEDIA RELEASE

Queenslanders Don't Want Privatisation!

12 DECEMBER 2013

Following reports in today's media the Queensland Government is closer to making a decision about privatising state assets such as Stanwell, CS Energy, Gladstone and Townsville Ports and selling equity stakes in Energex, Ergon and Powerlink, The Services Union will continue its opposition to any sales.

The Services Union represents members at Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) across Queensland, many in regional areas where communities rely on state assets to provide jobs and support the local economy.

Acting Secretary of the Services Union, Jennifer Thomas, said Queenslanders don't want privatisation.

"It's as simple as that. The Newman Government's assertion that selling off state assets will fix the state debt is a smokescreen for wider economic challenges our whole country is facing," Ms Thomas said.

"We've seen what privatisation has done in other states like Victoria. Not only is state debt still an issue, electricity prices are sky high and rail services are a mere skeleton of what they once were."

"Many people have had to take redundancies over the last 12 months because work at Ergon and Energex is being outsourced to private providers. This is all part of a bigger picture of preparing these state-owned assets for privatisation."

In October, the Queensland Government confirmed that an investigation into privatising Powerlink is currently being carried out by Rothschild, but denies any intention of selling Queensland's only energy transmission network.

"What we are seeing here is exactly the same as what happened in Victoria in the lead up to electricity privatisation," said Ms Thomas.

"There have been close to 200 job losses at Stanwell in Rockhampton over the past 18 months, as well as similar numbers at Tarong Station west of Brisbane. It's Queenslanders and their communities who are hurting!"

"These figures are concerning, especially for people working at the Gladstone and Townsville Ports, across the energy sector and for our railways," Ms Thomas said.

"These communities cannot risk having their workplaces placed into the hands of private companies who will no doubt put profits before services."

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