

8 DECEMBER 2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunshine Coast Regional Council Deliver Worst Offer in QLD Local Government Council Workers Vow To Fight For Jobs and Community Services At The Ballot Box

In what The Services Union describes as the worst Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) offer in Queensland Local Government so far, employees of Sunshine Coast Regional Council will get to have their say at the ballot box today and tomorrow.

Union members have vowed to 'Vote No' to an offer which steals a raft of working conditions from employees and which attacks a predominantly female section of the workforce.

Council management have shown complete arrogance and a lack of sincerity in the negotiations, scheduling only three meetings to discuss their proposal to a workforce which has just gone through a gruelling six month de-amalgamation process.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said, Council management has been disrespectful to dedicated employees who love the work they do for the community they live in.

"Firstly, Council management has taken advantage of the State Government's 'WorkChoices' legislation which provides absolutely no job security and decided to also propose the slashing of provisions such as military leave, study leave and health and safety clauses," Ms Thomas said.

"Secondly, it seems Council Management has stepped into misogynistic time machine and decided that it is a wonderful thing to restructure certain levels of employment, predominately filled by women, so they can take home on average four per cent (4%) less in their pay packets per annum. This is shameful!"

"Thirdly but not finally, Council management wants a two tiered workforce. This means any new employee will be paid much less than existing employees doing the same job," Ms Thomas said.

Recently, close to 700 employees signed a petition calling on Council management to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue the conditions previously negotiated for fair and decent wages and conditions.

"Doing this would have ensured the Council workforce is able to continue to deliver the quality services the community wants and needs and it would have been the right thing to do considering the 7.1% unemployment rate currently experienced in the Sunshine Coast region," Ms Thomas said.

"However, Council management have decided to be underhanded and frankly just plain nasty to their employees who get up day after day to provide friendly and efficient services to their community."

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