

MEDIA RELEASE

The LGAQ and Their Sour Grapes!

5 JUNE 2015

Queensland Local Government employees are rejoicing today with the passing of the Restoring Fairness Bill in State Parliament late last night.

The Services Union applauds the early delivery of a major election promise by the Palaszczuk Government to restore fairness to Industrial Relations Legislation.

The Services Union also notes the open and consultative approach taken by the Government which was in stark contrast to the behaviour of the Newman Government when it stripped away job security and other important entitlements.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson also criticised the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) claims today in the media, that 1500 jobs will be lost over the next 18 months now the Bill is passed, totally misleading.

"While the LGAQ and in particular LGAQ chief executive Greg Hallam asserts the passing of this Bill will lead to job losses, the submission made by them provides no evidence that these job losses can be directly attributed to the Bill," Mr Henderson said.

"In fact, from the LGAQs submission it would appear the reduction of a number Government grants has been a contributing factor with respect to current and predicted job losses. I haven't heard anything from the LGAQ about the impact that the Abbot Government funding cuts are having on local government particularly in the bush!"

"There was also the claim that the introduction of non-allowable matters to the Industrial Relations Act 1999 by the previous Newman Government harmonised it with the provisions of the Fair Work Act 2009. This is simply not true."

"The Newman Government legislation was at odds with the Fair Work Act which does not prevent bargaining for job security and enhanced consultation, the Bill now corrects this."

"The amendments will also allow negotiating parties to determine what will be contained in an Agreement that covers their workforce, this is an important right for employees and employers" Mr Henderson said.

"Fairness has been restored to Queensland workers and the LGAQ huffing and puffing is sour grapes probably aimed at deflecting attention from their failure to represent the interests of local government."

"Perhaps the LGAQs time would be better used in assisting Local Governments with retaining Commonwealth funding for roads and restoration work post natural disasters. Having the capacity to rebuild after these events is what matters to the local communities," 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

TRADING AS
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:
Neil Henderson
ASSISTANT BRANCH SECRETARY:

... ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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