

MEDIA RELEASE

The Newman Government is not listening to the people of Gladstone, says The Services Union

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The Services Union has slammed the Newman Government for not listening to the Gladstone community over its plans to privatise the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPCL).

A recent petition, tabled in Parliament by Labor Leader Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, called on the Newman Government to reject any plans to privatise GPCL.

However, in his response today, Transport Minister Scott Emerson made it clear that the Government would maintain its plans to privatise the Ports.

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said privatising the Ports will have dire consequences for the local community.

"We saw the devastating impact of privatisation on employment at the Port of Brisbane under the previous government. Forty per cent of the staff there lost their jobs as a direct result of privatisation," Mr Henderson said.

"The Ports are one of the biggest employers in Central Queensland, providing reliable, secure income to hundreds of families in the region."

"If the Ports are privatised, many of those workers will lose their jobs. The Premier himself has even admitted that job losses are part and parcel of the privatisation process."

"The only conclusion which can be drawn from this is Mr Newman wants to see Queenslanders lose their jobs. That's not the kind of Premier Queenslanders want," Mr Henderson said.

"The Newman Government promotes itself as being open to community consultation and real representation, and this couldn't be further from the truth. We know that the majority of Queenslanders who took the survey from their \$6 million Strong Choices campaign opposed Assets sales."

"Unfortunately, regardless of what the people of Gladstone say, the Newman Government will continue to push their agenda to sell off this community's future," Mr Henderson said.

"We will not stand idly by and let this government sell off our State's future and we will keep fighting to save the Gladstone Ports from privatisation."

"The Services Union will continue to keep this Government to account until the next election, when Queenslanders will have the opportunity to have their say at the ballot box," Mr Henderson said.

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