

# MEDIA RELEASE

## The Queensland Budget - One Big Smoke Screen!

4 JUNE 2013

Queensland Treasurer Tim Nicholls has attempted to pull the wool over Queenslanders' eyes when handing down his Budget this afternoon.

Mr Nicholls blamed increases in taxes and levies, on everything from the last government, redundancy pay outs and the cost of cleaning up after natural disasters.

The Treasurer also alluded that asset privatisation could still be on the horizon proclaiming the Government is proceeding with the implementation of their response to the Costello Report.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union Jennifer Thomas said, although the injection of funds into disability services and health is welcomed, many community services organisations who have already had their funding slashed are now struggling to keep their doors open to deliver essential frontline services.

"There has been no financial reprieve for community organisations and what we have seen is the slow erosion of these services, because they cannot afford the National Pay Equity Rates to pay staff because of a lack of State Government funding. This only hurts Queenslanders who rely on these services," Ms Thomas said.

"Queensland households will continue to hurt as they try and find an extra \$600 a year to pay for their electricity, water and public transport. Many workers and families, especially those who have already been hurt from sackings and redundancies will struggle to cope."

"In regards to the hike in electricity prices the Government have been mean spirited by cutting planned electricity rebates when the Energy Minister has the power to set electricity prices."

"The Government already plans to sell our electricity generators, outsource network maintenance and allow private sector firms to buy equity in Energex and Ergon. Their privatisation agenda will only skyrocket prices further."

"It is a real testament to the arrogance of this State Government who are making Queenslanders suffer for not supporting their plans to privatise our assets," Ms Thomas said

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QUEENSLAND SERVICES,  
INDUSTRIAL UNION OF  
EMPLOYEES  
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TRADING AS  
THE SERVICES UNION

SECRETARY:  
Kathrine Nelson  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY:  
Jennifer Thomas

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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