

MEDIA RELEASE

What the State Budget Could Mean For Gladstone

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Next week's State Budget could mean less job security for Gladstone Ports Corporation workers if the Government pushes through their privatisation agenda, according to The Services Union.

The Services Union, which represents members at Government Owned Corporations (GOCs), has already witnessed the affect recent restructures and site closures have had on workers across Queensland.

Privatisation of the Port of Brisbane under the previous State Government led to 45 per cent of that workforce losing their jobs. This will have even wider repercussions for the Gladstone community, with the Port being one of the biggest employers in the region.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said it has been apparent, regardless of how people responded to the Strong Choices campaign, privatising Queensland's assets is very much the Newman Government's agenda.

"Firstly, they spent \$6 million of taxpayers' money on a failed campaign and now it looks like they want to spend more on propaganda on an issue that clearly Queenslanders are totally against," Mr. Henderson said.

"If the Government proposes privatising the Gladstone Ports Corporation by way of a lease, they will be breaking an election promise."

"The Premier himself recently admitted that job losses are a natural part of privatisation, and we have deep concerns for our members at the Gladstone Ports Corporation if their workplace is to be privatised."

"Local families in Gladstone rely on their employment at the Port to put food on the table. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. Any loss of employment will filter through to the local economy."

"We know this issue is important to our members, their families and the Gladstone community. Our Union will be closely monitoring the Budget next week and we will be speaking out about what this will mean for our members and their livelihoods," Mr Henderson said.

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