

MEDIA RELEASE

What the State Budget Could Mean For Ipswich

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Next week's State Budget could mean more job losses and less job security for workers in Ipswich 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 site closures have had on Ipswich workers and their families.

The Newman Government has announced plans to close down Swanbank E Power Station later in the year, which will result in over 30 job losses. Over 400 job losses at Aurizon in Redbank have also been recently announced, which Premier Newman has described as a direct result of privatisation.

Secretary of the Services Union Neil Henderson said job losses in the Ipswich area will only increase if the energy industry is privatised.

"We have many members in the Ipswich area who work in GOCs such as Energex and Stanwell whose lives have been already disrupted due to site closures, restructures and outsourcing," Mr. Henderson said.

"It has been apparent that 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."

"If the Government proposes privatising state assets in next week's Budget by way of a lease, a sale or stealth, they will be breaking an election promise."

"Local families in Ipswich rely on their employment at the GOCs to put food on the table. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. Any more job losses will again filter through to the Ipswich economy, further affecting the community."

"We know this issue is important to our members, their families and communities in Ipswich. 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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