

MEDIA RELEASE

What the State Budget Could Mean For Rockhampton

29 MAY 2014

Next week's State Budget could mean more job losses and less job security for workers in Rockhampton 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 and their families in Central Queensland.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil 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," Mr. Henderson said.

"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."

"GOCs are one of the biggest employers in Central Queensland and many of these employers are on the chopping block to be privatised."

"We have many members in Central Queensland who work in GOCs such as Ergon whose lives have already been disrupted due to restructures and outsourcing; this is all part of this Government's privatisation by stealth agenda."

"Many of our members have their entire family rely on employment at GOCs. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. The loss of more positions will again filter through to the Central Queensland economy further affecting communities."

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