

MEDIA RELEASE

What the State Budget Could Mean For the Darling Downs

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Next week's State Budget could mean more job losses and less job security for workers on the Darling Downs 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 witnessed the affect recent restructures and site closures has already had on workers and their families, particularly around Kingaroy and Nanango.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said it has been apparent, regardless of how people responded in the Strong Choices campaign that 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."

"We have many members on the Darling Downs who work for GOCs such as Stanwell and Ergon, whose lives have already been disrupted due to restructures and outsourcing."

"Last year over 120 jobs were axed at Tarong Power Station near Nanango. This had a very real flow on affect for the local community, hitting local businesses, schools, hospitals and housing affordability. In addition to this, 35 positions were axed at Ergon in Toowoomba earlier this year."

"Local families in these communities rely on their employment at Ergon and Tarong to keep food on the table. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. We have already seen this affect in Nanango and Kingaroy but it will only get worse if these assets are privatised."

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