

# MEDIA RELEASE

## What the State Budget Could Mean For Townsville

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Next week's State Budget could mean more job losses and less job security for workers in Townsville 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 North Queensland.

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 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."

"Aurizon, which was privatised under the previous government, has recently announced 100 jobs will be lost in the next 12 months in Townsville. This is in addition to the 50 jobs that have been axed at Ergon in Townsville this year."

"Families in Townsville rely on their employment at Ergon and Aurizon to keep food on the table. They send their children to local schools and buy their goods and services from local businesses. Any further job losses will again filter through the local economy.

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