

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Tom Tate's Brave Plan To Save The Coast By Cutting Women's Take Home Pay.

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Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate and his \$500,000 a year helper Dale Dixon have decided that cutting the wages of working women is the path to success for the Gold Coast.

The Council's proposed enterprise agreement for staff would see wages cut by up to 10 per cent for new employees working in classifications which are generally filled by women.

Secretary of The Services Union, Neil Henderson said these workers are library workers, office assistants and customer service officers.

"These are the people doing the jobs that make the City work and they are mostly women. Women with families or just starting out in their careers," Mr. Henderson said.

"The Gender pay gap in Australia is 87 cents in the dollar, but the City of Gold Coast is keen to be one of the first over the line to increase it."

"Combined with generally only achieving 47 per cent of the amount of superannuation that men have, what is a bleak outlook for women generally will be even more bleak for women working at Gold Coast Council if Tom Tate has his way."

"This plan was part of a broader push by the Local Government Association of Queensland that women clerical workers in Local Government are paid too much compared with road workers.

"I first came across this in Toowoomba in 2012 where I was told by the Council that the wages were too high because too many women applied for jobs with the Council when they were advertised. I have been told this on a number of occasions in Councils since and as the LGAQ has been involved it doesn't take much to join the dots," Mr Henderson said.

Some Councils such as Moreton Bay Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council succeeded in cutting pay in 2015 by using Campbell Newman's industrial legislation before it was repealed. Since the pay in those Councils was cut in the lower level Administrative and Clerical classifications, over three quarters of the starters in the cut price jobs have been women.

"The Commonwealth Games ought to introduce an 'Increase the Gap' event. Tom Tate would be a front runner for the gold medal. But this is a race for which The Services Union and women need to ensure that Tom Tate gets the wooden spoon," Mr Henderson said.

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