

26 NOVEMBER 2018

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Stop The Drop At Moreton Bay Council Community Forum Wednesday, 28 November 2018 at 6:30PM Narangba Community Hall

A Community Forum will be held on Wednesday, 28 November to discuss the drop in wages and conditions at Moreton Bay Regional Council as well as insecure work and the current problematic Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiations.

Members of The Services Union, Member for Bancroft Chris Whiting MP and concerned members of the community will also discuss workers' experiences with underpayments by Council and other local employers.

Lead Organiser for The Services Union, Ben Jones said it's the local Moreton Bay Region community that ultimately suffers because of the mismanagement currently on display by Council management.

"In the last round of EBA negotiations in 2014, Moreton Bay Regional Council management were able to push through a two-tiered wage structure which created two classes of employees; the haves and the have nots," Mr Jones said.

"Some Council staff that started after the introduction of the two-tiered system have missed out on over \$20 thousand plus over \$2 thousand in Superannuation!"

"Not only has this created a division in the workforce, it has affected the take home pay of Administration Levels 1-3 who are primarily women, creating an even larger gender pay gap."

"Our members are adamant, they will not vote for a new EBA until the two-tiered wage structure is scrapped."

"However, Council management have refused to budge on this issue," Mr Jones said.

There has also been a lack of permanent jobs offered at Council over the last four years.

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TRADING AS  
THE SERVICES UNION

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Neil Henderson  
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"Over this period, many of the hard working staff at Council have only been offered one, two or three year fixed term contracts and many have been kept on long term probation, which is insulting," Mr Jones said.

"This means a lack of jobs and job security for local residents of the Moreton Bay region, which ultimately also affects the broader economy."

"If Council – as one of the biggest employers in the region – flagrantly displays such inequitable work practices, it follows that other employers in the region will copy their example and shy away from doing the right thing by their staff".

"It has also meant a high turnover of Council staff due to the lack of permanency, which alone is costing the ratepayer, lots of money which could be better spent on services for the local community."

"The staff at Moreton Bay Regional Council work hard each and every day to deliver the very best services they are able to under the circumstances."

"It's time Council management sit up and start listening to its community and do the right thing and deliver an EBA which is equitable and fair for its staff," Mr Jones said.