

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Redland City Council Workers Set To Strike Next Week

5 DECEMBER 2018

Members of The Services Union working at Redland City Council have voted overwhelmingly to take Protected Industrial Action (PIA) which includes work bans, wearing badges and a two-hour stoppage next Wednesday, 12 December 2018.

Unions and Council have been trying to finalise a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) since the middle of this year however have reached another stalemate because management still wish to axe working conditions of some its staff.

Lead Organiser for The Services Union, Ben Jones, said members at Council were resolute in their determination not to see any of their workmates lose out in this new EBA.

“This EBA has been unfortunately drawn out because Council management has continued to play games throughout the whole negotiation period,” Mr Jones said.

“Council management has tried hard to slash the wages and conditions of many parts of its workforce but fortunately during the process our members have been resolute and have been able to win most arguments.”

“However, a sticking point is Council’s refusal to guarantee the current conditions of Compliance Officers in the Environment and Regulation unit, who could potentially lose thousands of dollars per annum under the Council’s proposal.”

“These officers deliver front-line services to keep the community safe, but basically, management wants the ability to throw them under the bus!”

“Unfortunately, our members have been left with no choice but to take PIA because they refuse to let their colleagues be worse off financially,” Mr Jones said.

The PIA can include a ban on collecting rates, fines and late fees as well as stop-work action and wearing campaign badges.

Rather than sitting down at the bargaining table to discuss finalising the new EBA, Council has also chosen to muddy the waters by applying to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) for a scope order (a Commission hearing to

W [theservicesunion.com.au](http://theservicesunion.com.au)

P 07 3844 5300  
F 07 3846 5046

AUSTRALIAN MUNICIPAL,  
ADMINISTRATIVE, CLERICAL  
AND SERVICES UNION QUEENSLAND  
(SERVICES  
AND NORTHERN ADMINISTRATIVE)  
BRANCH  
ABN 86 351 665 653

TRADING AS  
THE SERVICES UNION

BRANCH SECRETARY:  
Neil Henderson  
EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT:  
Jennifer Thomas

... ENDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:  
Media Officer Belinda Hogan-Collis on 0401 710 039

decide which employees are covered by an EBA).

“This is a further disruptive tactic by Council management to delay the first pay increase, which is proposed to happen only when the EBA gets certified ,” Mr Jones said.

“Council says they want the same thing that our members do, which is maintenance of current arrangements. But rather than put wording into the new EBA to reflect that, they’ve embarked on a potentially lengthy and costly QIRC process.”

“Rather than sitting down and discussing the wording of the EBA sensibly, Council prefers to threaten our members with being locked out if they wear a badge.”

Council staff met after work yesterday at Bloomfield Street Park to discuss the PIA.

“Right throughout Queensland, our Union continues to finalise Local Government EBAs that maintain all core conditions and deliver decent wage increases,” Mr Jones said.

“There is absolutely no reason for Redland City Council to be different and it’s time they do they right thing by all its workforce and get the deal done.”