

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Cassowary Coast Council Workers Set To Strike!

26 MARCH 2019

Union members at Cassowary Coast Regional Council are taking Protected Industrial Action (PIA) tomorrow (Wednesday, 27 March 2019) in their pursuit of a fair and reasonable Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) outcome.

Members of The Services Union and other unions working at Council voted overwhelmingly to take the PIA because of Council's refusal to offer a pay increase that keeps up with the cost of living and recognises productivity already delivered.

Lead Organiser for The Services Union, Ben Jones, said members have been left with no choice but to take this action.

"Council staff work hard to deliver frontline services to their community each and every day, and yet they have been forced to watch their wages continue to fall far behind the cost of living. This is just not acceptable," Mr Jones said.

"Our Union and Council have been in Conciliation with the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) to try and break the stalemate, but to no avail."

"Council refused to acknowledge that its current wage offer is not acceptable, fair or reasonable during this process."

"On top of this Council is adamant in wanting unacceptable clauses in the proposed EBA relating to flexible working arrangements and the use of contractors."

"Council management has not taken employees' feedback seriously nor are they listening to the fact their staff are serious about wanting a fair EBA," Mr Jones said. If Council is at all interested in supporting and growing the local community, and the local ratepayer-base, they need to invest in their workforce!

"Recent ABS and RBA data has shown that depressed wages have been directly linked to depressed economic activity," Mr Jones said.

"Put simply; if workers don't get fair wage increases, they don't spend and can't save."

"If the Council want to support local businesses, then they should encourage the CEO to provide Council staff a decent pay increase and some certainty about their future," Mr Jones said.

Negotiations will continue through Conciliation at the QIRC, with another meeting set down for tomorrow.

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