

MEDIA RELEASE

Unions Call On Councillors To Make Livingstone Great Again!

25 MARCH 2019

Unions have invited all Livingstone Shire Councillors to a meeting tomorrow calling on them to hear the concerns of Council staff about their future job security.

Negotiations for a new Certified Agreement have reached an impasse, with Council seeking to reduce conditions for workers while also proposing wage increases below cost of living and far below acceptable community expectations.

The meeting of combined Unions will be held at the Yeppoon Foreshore at 11am, Tuesday 26 March.

Organiser for The Services Union, Chris McJannett said Unions believe it is important Councillors hear directly from their employees.

"We have invited each of the Councillors to attend this meeting and hear the concerns of Union members; after all these workers deliver all of the vital Council services for our community," Mr McJannett said.

"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 for the last four years."

"Councillors have received pay rises during this period, as they should. We just ask that the workforce are extended the same respect and certainty," said Mr McJannett.

Council's Executive have continued to receive salary increases and had their contracts extended in November last year while they were continuing to deny their workforce fair wage increases or secure jobs.

"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."

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

"If workers face uncertainty about their future they don't make big investments and they also don't spend as much at local businesses," Mr McJannett said.

"If the Livingstone Shire Councillors 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."

Negotiations are now being held through Conciliation at the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) where the final meeting is most likely to be this week.

W 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: CHRIS MCJANNETT - 0427 655 528