

MEDIA STATEMENT

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CLC's and the LNP - History Repeating Itself

Opposition Leader Deb Frecklington has confirmed what The Services Union has always suspected; the Liberal National Party (LNP) has an agenda to slash funding and axe frontline essential services if they win the Queensland Election next month.

The announcement yesterday by Deb Frecklington to defund the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO), if her party wins office, is history repeating itself.

Secretary of The Services Union Neil Henderson said this announcement could just be the tip of the iceberg.

"The LNP Newman Government took no time at all after it was elected to cut funding to essential Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and put gag orders on any person that dared speak out against the government," Mr Henderson said.

"It was dictatorial legislation the Newman Government rolled out that saw cuts to CLC funding, resulting in cuts to services and leaving Queenslanders without representation or access to legal advice."

"Now we have Campbell Newman's protégé, Deb Frecklington, going one step further, announcing funding cuts to one of the 34 community legal centres in Queensland, before she is even elected."

"It is beyond belief why the LNP would want to axe funding to a CLC which provides advice to so many regional and remote Queenslanders."

"Our members at the EDO are hardworking people who also defend and protect our State's wildlife and we stand by their side in ensuring that their funding and jobs are safe," Mr Henderson said.

Member of The Services Union and EDO Brisbane Managing Lawyer Revel Pointon said the organisation is seeking urgent clarification on this proposal from the Leader of the Opposition as well as Shadow Attorney-General David Janetzki.

"We receive modest but vital funding from the state government to provide free or low-cost legal advice and services to the Queensland community around environmental and planning issues," Ms Pointon said.

"CLC's have long been recognised as the most efficient and cost-effective way to ensure professional legal services are available to everyone in the community, and to ensure the smooth running of our court system."

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