

To: fac@parliament.qld.gov.au<<http://parliament.qld.gov.au>><<http://parliament.qld.gov.au>>

Subject: My submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I am a civil engineer employed in _____ and I wish to make a submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 because it will directly impact me, my family, my colleagues and the community.

As a result of the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 I lost many valuable conditions from my Industrial Award, and many provisions that could be bargained for in enterprise bargaining were removed from me and my colleagues. For example, protections about job security and consultation about workplace change were completely removed by this legislation of the Newman government.

In my workplace the legislation has caused me to lose my locality allowance, my job security and redundancy provisions and my right for union representation. I anxiously watched the progress of outsourcing of Local Government services as evidenced by the creation of Propel, bringing back memories of the painful times I and my fellow public servants endured under Jeff Kennett and his Compulsory Competitive Tending in Victoria in the 1990's where thousands lost their jobs and several of my workmates committed suicide.

The impact of this for me has been significant levels of stress. I am the sole income earner in my family. I was compulsorily made redundant from my job with Main Roads in Cairns after relocating from Adelaide only two years earlier. I luckily managed to get a job with the former Tablelands Regional Council only to then suffer through the stress of the restructure brought on by the former LNP government's decision to de-amalgamate the council into TRC and Mareeba Shire Council. Then after this stressful restructure where my responsibilities were reduced I then went through the stress of the LNP's changes to the Local Government Award and Industrial Relations Act. It has all had an effect on my and my wife's health as job and income security is such a big factor in life.

The right to organise collectively to achieve better working rights and conditions is a basic human right. The Newman government undemocratically curtailed this right and as a result lost the 2015 Queensland election. At the election a majority of Queenslanders supported parties and candidates who advocated a restoration of these basic rights. Please respect the voice of Queenslanders and the rights of workers and vote to restore fairness by supporting this bill.

I urge the committee to recommend passage of this bill without delay to ensure that the rights of workers on local government are restored to them.

Yours sincerely

Darren Lierkamp
