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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 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 1 week's annual leave and 12.5% loading 1 week sick leave and my locality allowance.

The impact of this for me has been lower take home wages and a reduction of key work conditions. Local government wages (even with the locality allowance) in remote communities are low when compared to private sector however the heightened employment conditions i.e. remote allowance 5 weeks annual leave and extra personal leave days made working in a remote community more palatable.

Working in remote areas has substantial added power food and fuel costs. The continued loss of benefits will result be a shortage of skilled and experienced labour willing to live, work and mentor in remote communities unless the benefits are quickly restored.

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

Wendy Rowlands

