
From: Matthew Griffiths
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2015 2:44 PM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: My submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

To: Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I write to make a submission on the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015.

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

The Newman LNP government was elected in 2012 having made clear promises to respect rights at work and the collective bargaining framework. The government broke these commitments and removed protections for job security as well as many other basic rights, amending legislation often late at night with no warning. Thousands of workers and their families in Queensland suffered as a result of the removal of these protections, which directly caused the loss of over 20,000 jobs in the last three years.

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 for workers and for a restoration of certainty in our state and local government services.

Over the last three years I have been very difficult and stressful for public servants. I have seen colleagues lose their jobs in an arbitrary and unfair manner, some of whom had to leave Queensland to find work; government departments suffer under depleted workforces and reduced programs for the people of Queensland (my department was downsized by 25%), and interminable arguments in the Industrial relations commission and courts due to legal appeals by the former government to prevent a fair deal.

Please respect the voice of Queenslanders and the rights of workers and vote to restore fairness by supporting this bill.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Griffiths