
From: Debra Parks
Sent: Sunday, 17 May 2015 2:41 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.

Personally, the decision of the previous government to strip industrial protections, affected me and my family greatly. I could not make plans to spend money on my house, replace our single car or dare to spend money on a holiday. I lost sleep on many many nights worrying about how we would manage if I lost my job. I worried about how we would pay for the therapy for my son who has a disability. I look at my more junior colleagues, just starting in their careers and see them "stalled" because they do not have certainty. I have heard many political leaders talk about the importance of certainty for the business community, so they can plan, spend and innovate: why is certainty for me any less important? The worry that I experience, does have an impact on my work: I do not have the eneregy to try new ways of doing things and I am constantly tired because I loose sleep. I have a great manager and this really helps but I want to go to work to concentrate on providing service to my clients, not fearfull that I will loose my job on a political whim. These worries have not gone away because the new governemnt have promised to respect my rights at work: I doubt they will go away until the legislation gives that promise foundation.

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

Yours sincerely

Debra Parks