

Maggie Lilith

From: Diana Sheehan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2015 9:46 AM
To: Finance and Administration Committee
Subject: : My submission about the Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Members of the Finance and Administration Committee

I am employed in Local Government 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 loading 1 week sick leave and remote area allowance resulting in loss of income.

Local government wages (even with the locality allowance) in remote communities are low when compared to private sector however the heightened employment conditions ie remote allowance 5 weeks annual leave and extra personal leave days made working in a remote community more palatable.

It takes me about 5 hours to travel to appointments in Cairns. These extra days are used for medical appointment Eg: Doctors, Dentist and Optometrist, and other appointments (Mechanic, Tax etc) that cannot be made after work as you can in CBD areas.

I need, 3 days off to go to appointments. 1 days travel to get to the appointments, 1 days travel for the appointments, and 1 days travel return, resulting in extra fuel costs and accommodation costs. Working in remote areas has substantia added costs including food, car maintenance 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

Diana Sheehan

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