

Maggie Lillith

From: Natasha Riding [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2015 12:17 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.

For a democratically elected Government (Newman LNP) to strip the protections of public servants without due consultation of those to be affected or by their representative unions is certainly not democratic. I am not a far left supporter but was appalled by the far right move to remove hard won protections for Government workers. Our section's staff was reduced by 5 and we experienced a work load shed to remaining staff. As conscientious public servants we endeavour to provide the state of Queensland with excellent service however this is becoming more problematic with an increasing work load, uncertainty of job security, lack of career progression and outsourcing of services.

Personally, I have been fortunate to retain my position but there are those who are temporary and have been in such a position for up to eight years, not knowing whether they will be able to continue their work after the end of each financial year as funding is mostly from external sources. Meeting mortgage repayments and general living expenses is difficult enough without the continual uncertainty of job security.

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 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.

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

Yours sincerely

Natasha Riding
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