

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 138**  
**Asked on Tuesday, 20 February 2007**

**MR GIBSON** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR STATE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

In establishing a statutory authority to monitor the impact of WorkChoices, what guarantees will he be extracting from the new authority, or what legislative mechanism will he put in place that ensures the new statutory authority, and all existing statutory authorities and Government Owned Corporations, do not embrace the principles of WorkChoices for its employees?

ANSWER:

I welcome the courageous decision of the Member for Gympie to break ranks with his colleagues in Canberra in opposing WorkChoices Legislation. I hope his actions begin a trend away from WorkChoices by his colleagues who regrettably have embraced WorkChoices to date.

I share his concerns that Queensland workers will be disadvantaged by WorkChoices and need to be protected by the Queensland jurisdiction.

The new Workplace Rights Office will play a significant role in raising public awareness of the harsh impacts of WorkChoices.

Employees of this new office will be covered by State Industrial laws.

Most Statutory Authorities will remain in the state system as they are not trading corporations.

I have introduced a Bill to provide a mechanism to enable employees of Statutory Authorities to be covered by state laws rather than Work Choices and I urge the Member for Gympie to impress on his Coalition colleagues the necessity for them to support the Government position. I look forward to hearing his speech in support of this Bill in the House.

In respect of Government Owned Corporations they have been advised to maintain as far as possible, conditions, entitlements and industrial relations arrangements existing prior to the Federal Government's harsh attacks on workers via the WorkChoices legislation.

I am glad the Member has seen the light.