

**Summary of the QPSU Council meeting**  
**28 August 2008**

QPSU Council met on Thursday 28 August 2008. 130 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

**Wages campaign**

Council discussed the state government's sector wide 3.25% pay offer. Delegates rejected the pay offer as below inflation and therefore unacceptable as a matter of principle, and also confirmed that the state government's position, that the 3.25% offer could be increased in an area only in return for trade-offs, was equally unacceptable and contrary to QPSU practice.

Council members discussed the detail of the campaign, such as the campaign's radio and television ads, which were shown to delegates.

Discussion took place over the strategy to involve as many QPSU members as possible in the campaign, and the plans to recruit more QPSU members and use the money from this to keep the campaign ads on air for longer.

Enabling as many people as possible to watch our TV ads is crucial to maintaining political and industrial pressure on the government to change their offer.

The campaign is continuing across different areas of the public sector. The Department of Main Roads was the first group to take industrial action for the wages campaign.

Queensland Health will be undertaking more activity of its own in the near future.

The Wages Campaign has its on website at [www.qpsu.org.au/wages](http://www.qpsu.org.au/wages).

**PPP/contracting out campaign in schools**

The General Secretary advised Council of the success of the joint LHMU/QPSU campaign to stop the government's plan to contract out jobs in new schools to be constructed under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

The result of the campaign has been that while the construction of the new schools under the PPP will proceed, the cleaning and maintenance jobs that were scheduled to be contracted out will instead remain directly employed government positions.

The government has guaranteed that none of its employees in existing schools will be affected.

**Climate change**

Council discussed a draft union policy on climate change, as submitted by the members of the Climate Change Committee. A copy of the policy is available by emailing [climate@qpsu.org.au](mailto:climate@qpsu.org.au).

The climate change policy as submitted was approved by council, with provisions recommended to the Climate Change Committee for further consideration.

QPSU Climate Heroes continue to lead the fight in their workplaces to create green, sustainable government operations. To learn more about the Climate Heroes campaign and their latest activities, visit [www.qpsu.org.au/climate](http://www.qpsu.org.au/climate).

### **State/federal industrial relations**

Council discussed the forthcoming legislation from the federal government to put in place a new federal industrial relations system. Under the federal government's policy, there is some question over whether Queensland's registered unions should have federal or state registration.

General Secretary Alex Scott briefed delegates on the difference between state and federal registration. Our union is registered in Queensland as the Queensland Public Sector Union, but also registered federally as the CPSU/SPSF (Queensland Branch). Mr Scott outlined the membership, structure and coverage of the two unions.

Council delegates agreed that the QPSU should remain the primary union for Queensland public sector workers, and that the two unions should continue their close working arrangements.

Further developments will depend on whether the new federal legislation, when announced, will require a merger between our state and federal organisations, at which point Council will need to discuss proposals.

### **Office Accommodation arrangements**

Council was advised that the current 96 Albert Street premises would continue to house the QPSU Brisbane office for the time being, as a Heads of Agreement has been signed with the building's new owners.

Meanwhile the existing plan to develop Peel Street South Brisbane into suitable premises is continuing.