

Summary of the QPSU Council meeting **3 March 2009**

QPSU Council met on Tuesday 3 March 2009. 165 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

State election and state budget

The General Secretary briefed Council delegates on the current state election and the upcoming state budget. Delegates reviewed the effect of the Global Financial Crisis on state revenues, and the implications that this would have in preserving the wages entitlements and the jobs of members.

The General Secretary expressed that this upcoming state budget would be among the most severe seen.

It was agreed that a strong union campaign was needed to preserve the wages outcome won in 2008 and defend public sector jobs.

In this environment, Council was briefed on the QPSU's "Fight 4 Jobs" campaign, which, due to the earlier than anticipated calling of a state election (date 21 March), was already underway.

The General Secretary outlined that the main aim of the Fight 4 Jobs was to ensure that, whoever won the state election, they would not declare war on the public service after winning office.

Federal IR changes and effect on union structure

Councillors spent some time discussing the implementation of the Fair Work Australia legislation and what it would mean for the members of our union.

A detailed discussion was held on the relationship between our union and its federal counterpart body, the SPSF. The discussion took note of how the new structure of federal industrial relations would mean that our union might have to reassess the relationship we have with our federal body.

Council was advised that legal advice had been sought on the likely effect of the new legislation, and that Executive had determined principles to be considered before any proposal to reassess our

relationship with other unions. These principles were noted by Council.

Core enterprise bargaining conference

The Core Enterprise bargaining agreement conference was taking place at the same time as Council, being held on the surrounding days.

Council reviewed the proposed structure of the committee to oversee the Core EB campaign, and voted that the committee be formed along the lines that were proposed in the meeting.

A report on the deliberations of the Core Enterprise Bargaining conference is available.

Consultation policy

Council members discussed the draft workplace consultation policy that had been introduced during the November 2008 council meeting.

With the inclusion of one amendment, the draft policy was adopted by vote of Council.

Reconciliation Action plan and Stolen Wages

Councillors discussed the union's draft reconciliation action plan, and, after discussion, voted for its endorsement.

Council also voted the allocation of funds to the Queensland Council of Union's stolen wages campaign.

Motions related to rules

A number of motions were discussed and adopted in order to update rules and procedures and ensure their consistent operations across all union bodies. The changes have been reflected in the latest copy of the union's rules.

Councillors also voted to adopt a number of policies in relations to future rules changes.

Financial statements

Union Council received and adopted the financial statements for the last three months of 2008.

New delegates

A number of new delegates attended this meeting, as a result of the most recent round of elections to Union Council.