

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

QPSU Council met on Thursday 3 December 2009. 170 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

Referral of state industrial relations powers

With legislative changes having been passed by the federal and state Parliaments, the Queensland government has referred its powers over industrial relations outside of the government sector to the federal Fair Work Australia system. This means that areas of state-based industrial regulation such as the Industrial Inspectorate will cease as their powers are moved to the federal sphere. Councillors received a report from industrial expert Deborah Ralston, on the shifting industrial environment and what the referral of IR powers will mean for QPSU members.

Queensland Not for Sale campaign

Queensland Branch Secretary of the Rail, Train and Bus Union, Owen Doogan, addressed Councillors on the status of the combined union campaign against the program of the sale of public assets by the Queensland state government. A detailed update on the campaign will be available on the QPSU website.

Workplace Health and Safety

Council heard a report from the Workplace Health and Safety (WH&S) Committee, including an update on the process of WH&S "harmonisation", by which the state and federal WH&S Acts are amended so that they are consistent with each other. Councillors then moved a motion addressed to the state government urging them to ensure the highest standards of health and safety for Queensland's public sector workers.

Climate Change campaigning

Council members discussed the recent developments at a national and international level in relation to climate change, including the failure of the Senate to pass an Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Councillors discussed the position of the QPSU relative to the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) and ACTU on the issue of climate change, and called on the government to support an ETS with strong reduction targets.

As part of the discussion on climate change, Council resolved that teleconferencing for regional delegates would not be contemplated, on the basis that it was unworkable and even as an "optional" component it unfairly restricted the ability of delegates from regional areas to take part in Council meetings and other related union activities.

Surrender of the 96 Albert Street property lease and 2010 budget

Council was provided with a briefing note that laid out terms for a proposed surrender of the QPSU's lease on its former premises on 96 Albert Street. Delegates approved the terms of the surrender of the lease as outlined and as a result the QPSU will be relinquishing its lease arrangements for the two floors of that building.

In addition, Council delegates considered and approved the QPSU budget for 2010.

Rules changes

The changes to the Union Rules as proposed in the most recent edition of *Public Sector Voice* were adopted by Council.

In particular, a new provision of Rule 6B was adopted allowing for members of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland (AMAQ) to become associate members of the QPSU. Associate members are not eligible for individual legal or industrial representation.

Resignation – Mr Brett McCreadie

QPSU Assistant General Secretary Brett McCreadie has given formal notice to Council of his resignation from that position in order to assume the

position of the new CEO of Union Shopper. President Vivienne Doogan recorded her thanks to Brett for his service.

Fees for 2010

In continuation of the QPSU policy of linking fee schedules to the wage increases won by members through collective bargaining, Council delegates voted for a new fee schedule for 2010 that includes a 4% increase. As noted by Councillors the 2009 schedule included a 4.5% increase on the previous year's fees.

Union elections

This was the last meeting of QPSU Council for 2009 and the last before the elections for a new Council and Executive that will be held in early 2010. Those positions that are contested by more than one candidate will have a postal ballot conducted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland in 2010.