

Queensland Politicians Should Get on the Train and Stop Blowing Out Commute Times for Workers

The union of public sector workers is calling on the Queensland Government to explain why it wants to relocate hundreds of Brisbane public sector workers to the city of Ipswich and condemn workers to massive commuting time blowouts.

"The government has to get real and explain why it plans to condemn Brisbane based workers to an extra 3 hours a day on public transport in addition to the commute time from their homes to Ipswich," QPSU General Secretary Alex Scott said today.

"It flies in the face of their own clear message that Queenslanders should be travelling 'climate friendly' and efficiently and reducing commute times where possible.

"We're letting all Queensland politicians know loudly and clearly that it will save a whole lot of pain if they get on board and recognise that posting Brisbane workers to Ipswich and requiring them to deliver services in the city will condemn public sector workers to extra costs along with lengthy waits on rail platforms or extra time in cars or taxis."

Workers from DEEDI say much of their service delivery is carried out in Brisbane's CBD, while the Government has signalled it wishes to relocate the workers to offices in Ipswich.

"What it will do is lumber hundreds of our members with spiralling transport costs estimated to hit \$150 a week or more for a mega trek from Brisbane to Ipswich and return.

"It's just plain wrong to ask workers who have family responsibilities in Brisbane to up stakes and spend their working lives in Ipswich" it's certainly not fair on people with childcare responsibilities who have to pick up kids from school or day care."

The union of public sector workers said while some worker's employment conditions state they must re-locate offices if requested to do so, that all employers have a basic responsibility to treat workers fairly.

"Workers can't magically shift their homes and families to Ipswich, they can't take their friends, neighbours, relatives and community groups there either, and an extra 3 hours, commuting each and every day will simply steal the best part of 2 working days out of many of our members, working lives, which is not fair or reasonable," Mr Scott said.

"For many, the only reliable and time-efficient way to get to and from home would be lengthy car trips.

"It's a government decision that's completely at odds with the government's central message that people should be reducing travel, reducing emissions and doing their bit towards climate change.

"Today's rolling rally is blowing the train whistle on the need to be careful about making changes to working arrangements without being mindful about commuting blowouts and needless travel - Queensland politicians would do well to listen to this message from public sector workers."

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