

## **Our Community has a right to see a return to Democratic Westminster Government**

The union of public sector workers is calling on the Queensland Government to return to the strength of the Westminster model of responsible government and to pledge that it will consult the public as it builds the permanent public service delivery systems that our community needs to meet 40 years of future population growth.

"Sadly for Queenslanders there's been a marked drift away from Westminster's proven model of permanent public service delivery

mechanisms," QPSU General Secretary Alex Scott said today.

"Our community expects and deserves responsible, accountable, democratic Westminster government not just in 2010, not just 40 years from now, but a hundred years from now.

"For many years now we've been sounding the alarm, calling for permanent public service delivery systems and permanent jobs so that agencies can comprehensively plan, provide for, support and deliver services for our community under the Westminster model but unfortunately politicians from all sides have been hard of hearing and because of this our community is in danger of suffering real pain.

"Comprehensive, responsible, accountable public service delivery is a long term, permanent, full time endeavour that requires experienced, dedicated teams who are continuously supported, trained and developed as they focus on state wide public service delivery, at the same time as they develop 'next generation' public service and infrastructure delivery.

"All this while they effectively plan and minimise the instances that individuals, infrastructure and environmental responsibilities fall through the cracks.

"Queenslanders have a right to permanent public service delivery which is a commitment to responsible, accountable government under the Westminster model."

Mr Scott said the recent Intergenerational Report sounded a strident alarm - governments must take strong action to build permanent public service delivery capacity plans right now or our community could face terrible pain in 40 years time.

"Unfortunately, every single Queensland politician has been deathly quiet about all of this," Mr Scott said.

"It's not clear why Queensland's politicians are just not listening to our community about the future of permanent public service delivery.

"It will be very interesting to see whether they report about this when the Queensland Parliament sits next week.

"For example, the Queensland Government is yet to reveal whether they will consult our community about how permanent public service delivery systems will be enhanced to meet population growth.

"Queenslanders will not thank any politicians who simply wash their hands of state responsibilities and condemn all of us to pay the price for a short term, short sighted vision of public service delivery and capacity building that doesn't prepare for 2050.

"If we are going to get the next 40 years of permanent public service delivery right, then it's time to return to Westminster's tried and true foundations and it's time to rebuild the long term corporate knowledge that's essential for visionary public service delivery.

"It's time to value the expertise and plain hard work of every single public sector worker across each and every department.

"It's time to build on the strong foundations of their experience and provide the ongoing training and support that's essential to permanent public service delivery.

"It's time to return to Westminster's fundamentals of permanent public service delivery, which means permanent jobs, permanent careers dedicated to efficiently building our state without syphoning taxpayers' money away to private sector profit.

"This is the secret to activating strong, permanent, comprehensive, visionary plans for 40 years of growth and concurrent climate adaptation in Queensland," Mr Scott said.

"Those who might fob off Westminster responsibilities for permanent public service delivery to the private sector or chain public service delivery systems to a churn every few years are making a terrible mistake that could hurt all of us.

"They are eroding our democracy, reducing accountability to Queenslanders through the parliament, fuelling dangerous risks that long term, strategic state wide plans simply cannot and will not be created and delivered and creating a risky future where Queenslanders requiring services will needlessly fall through the cracks.

"There's a very real danger for our entire community across the state.

"Right now, Queenslanders continue to closely watch democratically elected governments as they report to us all through the parliament. They quite rightly scrutinise ministers as they report about the performance of public service delivery by their permanent departments.

"Our community has a right to see Ministers reporting to parliament about their permanent community responsibilities, our community has a right to transparency around that permanent public service delivery and we have a right to know how each government of the day intends to build and continuously develop those permanent public service delivery systems well into the future to meet expected growth.

"It's not too late to return to the democratic Westminster model of permanent service delivery.

"There's still time to see Queensland's population projections through the Westminster lens, time to consult our community about permanent public service delivery mechanisms that will meet large scale growth and ensure climate adaptation and protection happens," Mr Scott said.

"We must ensure our community remains at the tiller of the ship of state.

"We must ensure our government continues to fully report to the people through the parliament and doesn't wash its hands of its responsibilities by hiding behind the veil and greater expense of private service delivery.

"We are showing all politicians the danger very clearly. They've got to wake up and realise it is now a race against time to create the permanent public service delivery strength that Queenslanders will rely on across fast-growing communities for decades into the future," Mr Scott said.

"In the meantime, as public sector workers we stand committed to our Queensland community, committed to the Westminster model of public service delivery and accountability to the people, and committed to ethics and integrity as we work with and for Queenslanders."

**Contact: Alex Scott, General Secretary, QPSU: 0407 379 284**