

Summary of the Together Council meeting
30 August 2011

Together Council met on Tuesday 30 August 2011. 179 delegates were in attendance, plus observers. Council met at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Brisbane.

The meeting was chaired by President Vivienne Doogan who acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Turrbul and Yuggera peoples.

This meeting was the first for the Council under the name Together and the first time delegates of the former QPSU and ASU Councils met under the same roof.

Life Membership – Barry Peacock

Mr Barry Peacock, longstanding member of the QPSU, was presented with his Life Membership award.

Amalgamation business

- Council noted the previous decisions relating to our union's name under amalgamation. A motion was passed to recognise the existing resolution of both previous Councils in favour of the name 'Together', and the discussions before the Industrial Relations Commission. For a summary see the documents available on the Together website.
- Together maintains an affiliation to the Queensland Council of Unions (QCU) and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) and Union Shopper.
- The Secretary gave a report on office integration, noting that most of the office is now integrated. A new Mackay office of the union will soon be opened.

Core Collective agreement

The Core Public Service collective agreement will be up for renegotiation in 2012. Delegates in the Core have been authorised to organise, survey and

set up union structures to determine logs of claims in their agencies, groups or authorities.

Climate Change

Together Council delegates welcomed the government's decision to put a price on carbon pollution and adopted a revised climate policy, to ensure that the package delivers for working people, our environment and the Queensland community.

LGBT Equality

Together Council delegates endorsed the position that Together supports and will advocate for equality for our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) members. This includes the legal right of all adult couples in Australia to be married if they so choose and for marriage to be recognised and registered by law in Australia regardless of the sexual orientation or gender of the parties to the marriage.

Together Budget and AGM

The Together budget for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 was submitted to Council and approved.

The first AGM for Together will be held at the next Council meeting on 29 November.

Regional Zones

Council voted to authorise a postal ballot of members on a revision of rules related to Regional Organising Committees. The proposed Regional Zones are aimed at building the abilities for regionally-based members to organise and act collectively.

Ex-QPSU rules changes

Council delegates also voted to send to postal ballot a set of changes that had been made to the QPSU rules prior to the formation of Together that now need to be reauthorised by the Together Council.

Council Agenda reform

The Council Agenda Committee made a number of recommendations regarding reform of the formation of the agenda for future Council meetings. These were accepted by Council.