

Summary of the Together Council meeting **29 November 2011**

Together Council met on Tuesday 29 November 2011. In attendance were the President, Secretary, the two Assistant Secretaries, the Minutes Secretary, 188 delegates and 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.

Political engagement in the 2012 election

Council Delegates voted to engage with all Queensland political parties with elected representatives at the state or federal parliamentary level – ALP, LNP, Katter’s Australia Party, and the Greens. The union will conduct a community and membership campaign to promote our position prior to the next state election. The union will not direct members on how to vote, or offer any financial or other resources to any political party.

Following the resolution by Council delegates, our union has been engaging with these politicians, around the following framework:

- Protection and rights at work;
- Machinery of government;
- Wages policy;
- Public service management;
- Budgetary policies.

A series of individual positions on these matters was considered and adopted by Council delegates, based on recommendations of members from individual agencies.

Thursday Island Community Health

Council delegates passed a motion calling attention to the poor state of community health facilities at Thursday Island, Torres Strait, and aiming for the facilities to be brought up to an appropriate culturally and socially acceptable standard.

Public Service Commission

Council delegates expressed a vote of no confidence in the operations of the Public Service Commission due to its failure to take an active role in upholding working conditions and management standards in the public service. The Secretary will be writing to the Commission and the Premier to reflect delegates' views on this matter.

Delegate Charter

The Delegate Charter is a result of earlier discussions at Council meetings about a delegate code of conduct. Council delegates voted to authorise the charter.

Employee assistance services

Council vote for a motion aimed at investigating the provision of employee assistance services to determine whether they are locally based with equitable and quality access to all employees regardless of geographic location.

Ombudsman's report

Together Ombudsman, Mr Terry Hamilton, produced his final report for Council delegates after 8 years of service in the role. Council delegates thanked him for his dedication to the job.

Governance, rules changes and changes to standing orders

Via postal ballot, Council has voted to amend the Union's rules. These amendments have been accepted by the Industrial Registry and the amended Rules are available on our union website. The standing orders were also amended via vote at the meeting.

A separate postal ballot of Council members was authorised, to determine sub-divisions and regional zones for Council delegate elections.

Council will next meet on Tuesday 27 March 2012.