

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Candidates Commit to Better Outcomes for Brisbane City Council Workers

2 MARCH 2016

On Tuesday, 1 March 2016, locals from the Enoggera and Paddington Wards gathered at the Enoggera Bowls Club to seek commitments from Brisbane City Council (BCC) Mayoral and Councillor Candidates to ensure Better Tools and Technology are installed at BCC if they are elected.

Attendees included Amanda Ronan-Hearn, Labor Candidate for Enoggera Ward, Jeff Eelkema, Labor Candidate for Paddington Ward, and Rod Harding, Labor Candidate for Lord Mayor of Brisbane, who all committed to Better Tools and Technology at Brisbane City Council if they are elected.

The Services Union, representing all indoor staff at BCC is calling on candidates to commit to supporting workers and better outcomes for ratepayers if elected in the upcoming BCC Election on 19 March 2016.

Assistant Secretary of The Services Union, Jennifer Thomas, said there are several issues facing BCC workers presently, particularly the rising number of employees in insecure work and inefficient tools and technology, which is causing considerable frustration amongst the workforce.

"Some of our members are in positions where they may have to open hundreds of files a day and are in total spending up to two hours waiting for them to open," Ms Thomas said.

"When residents call with simple questions about the status of an application for a new back deck, or a fire safety hazard assessment, Development Assessors can't answer simple questions because files take too long to load on their computer."

"Field staff are spending more time in the office managing the backlog of work because they can't accurately record data when they're out of the office. That means more delays in fixing potholes, clearing drains or repairing footpaths.

"This ludicrous in 2016!"

"For far too long there have been inefficiencies in this area, which is a wasting workers' time and rate payers' money!"

"That's why our Union is engaging with candidates – to achieve outcomes for not only the BCC workforce, but also to see ratepayers' money spent more effectively in to the future," Ms Thomas said.

"BCC employs over seven thousand people from across the City – that's a substantial number of people who can have a real impact on who will become our next Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Our Union also has hundreds of members across Northgate and Marchant Wards. Given both are marginal and could come down to the wire on polling day, BCC employees could be the deciding factor for local candidates."

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THE SERVICES UNION

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... ENDS

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