

MEDIA RELEASE

The Gender Gap at Moreton Bay Regional Council

8 MARCH 2016

With the gender pay gap in Australia sitting at over 17 per cent, electors in the Moreton Bay Regional Council area should be asking Mayor Alan Sutherland why he supports cutting the pay of women who work for the Council.

Moreton Bay Regional Council was quick to use Newman Government Industrial Legislation to slash the pay of women clerical workers by around 17 per cent.

This is no coincidence. At the same time the wage rates for new trade qualified employees (traditionally male) were not reduced at all.

Neil Henderson, Secretary of the Services Union said no lengthy analysis about what has happened here is necessary.

"The numbers speak volumes. Moreton Bay Regional Council wanted to cut the pay rates of female clerical workers because its stated belief is and was that they were being paid too much," Mr Henderson said.

"Campbell Newman and Jarrod Bleijie provided the tools for them to do this and the rest is history."

"We have appealed to the Council's better sense, but it is clear that it does not have one. A meeting with Alan Sutherland last year resulted in nothing."

"The Services Union is continuing its efforts to restore fairness for Moreton Bay Regional Council workers and others in the Industrial Court and ultimately will be looking to the Palaszczuk Government to legislate if that is what is needed," Mr Henderson said.

"On International Women's Day in 2016, if the people of Moreton Bay Regional Council are wondering what is holding back women's income, they do not have to look far."

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