



Media Release

3 December 2014

Att: Political and General reporters

Whiteboard fever as Ergon caught out on privatisation plans

Detailed scenarios reveal how company plans to deal with overseas owners

The Electrical Trades Union came out swinging today after it was revealed Ergon Energy managers are plotting and planning for asset privatisation; despite the Government assuring Queenslanders it is seeking a mandate first.

ETU State Secretary Peter Simpson said the detail contained on no less than five whiteboards at the company's Banyo site complete with a "do not rub off" directive included complex strategies to deal with its privatisation. The whiteboards were photographed and shared on the Union's Facebook page by an eagle-eyed Union official and organiser

"The particulars on the whiteboards include scenarios for dealing with overseas owners, outsourcing, leasing, labour hire and business strategies, they were quite specific in naming (SP) Ausnet as a potential lessee," Simpson said.

"The response from Ergon was pretty damning, they and their masters the LNP Government have been silent on the leasing arrangements and impacts when talking to their own staff and the public, yet here they are like gamblers in a smoke filled room plotting and planning to off load our assets"

"When Ergon found out we were sharing information about public owned assets they threatened us, if it wasn't so serious you'd think it was a comedy skit from Monty Python, it's a sick joke."

"Our members and other workers in the electricity industry have seen 1750 of their colleagues shown the door since the LNP came to power just 2 ½ years ago, that's close to 60 workers per month, of course they are angry. On leasing arrangements they have heard precious little except the estimated \$30m worth of spin the Government has peddled out on its so called Strong Choices initial and final plans.

"The LNP Government has been found wanting in recent weeks over its lack of transparency and accountability when dealing with energy players and now we have executives of a state owned company following a similar culture, one of lack of transparency and accountability and now intimidation and cover up"

We call on the Government to come clean to the Queensland public about four crucial issues relating to the privatisation of their power assets;

- Release the scoping studies into Ergon, Energex and Powerlink, complete with which companies are being considered
- Tell the Queensland public exactly how much of public monies have been spent preparing assets for sale/lease (rough estimates are around \$300m – Courier Mail, It's A Gray Area - 3 Sept 2014)
- Reveal the total cost of the Strong Choices media campaign.
- Reveal to Queenslanders, the leasing arrangements and conditions including who will own the infrastructure.

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