



Media Release

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Attention: General and Political reporters

LNP, Energex privatisation push sells out future generations

Energex set to slash Apprentice numbers, Ergon and Powerlink expected to follow suite

The Electrical Trades Union slammed the State Government for selling out the future when Energex tabled its proposal to slash Apprentice numbers from 280 to a maximum of 96 during EBA negotiations, the cuts represent a reduction of up to 66%.

ETU State Organiser Stuart Traill was scathing about the proposal calling it a betrayal and an example of what the future will look like under privatisation.

“Currently Energex are required to maintain the number of Apprentices in their employ at a minimum of 280 at any one time, they can have more but they cannot have less, under the new proposal Energex are looking to trash the minimum total number and instead have a maximum intake of just 32 per year a total of 96 over the life of the Agreement”

“The LNP is following a well-worn privatisation blueprint; slash and burn perceived costs and make the companies look more attractive to possible suitors. We know in Victoria under privatisation jobs and Apprenticeships were slashed and many roles outsourced to private contractors”

“It is an absolute disgrace that at a time when Government’s at all levels and many independent groups are warning of looming skills shortages including in the electrical trades and the ballooning youth unemployment problem in places like Ipswich, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, that Energex and the LNP would be so short-sighted in recklessly selling future generations out”

“We expect that as with the cost cutting agenda’s implemented over the past two and a half years the proposal by Energex will be followed by carbon copy proposals from Ergon and Powerlink, which will be hammer blows to regional communities already reeling from job and service cuts”

“It is also a clear warning of what will happen to regional communities when the issue of depot closures, which has been conveniently buried by the Government in its preparation for privatisation, is again on the cost cutting agenda. We know that once private companies have control of the boards of Energex, Ergon and Powerlink, the issue of depot closures and the future of remote generation will once again be in the spotlight”

“The ETU will continue fighting for our young people, our communities and our industry in the face of these shortsighted, ideological and ill - conceived cuts”

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