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MEDIA RELEASE

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Energy Roadmap Leaves Workers in the Dark

The Services Union warns Queensland's Energy Roadmap ignores the very workers most affected by the changes.

While the Government's vision for Queensland's energy future may please climate change sceptics, it ignores the workers who power the State every day.

Deputy Secretary of The Services Union Rebecca Girard said, workers across generation, transmission and distribution deserve more than to read about their future in a press release.

"The transition to renewable energy cannot be built on uncertainty and silence because Queensland's energy workforce deserves to be part of shaping it," Ms Girard said.

"With decades of experience, our members know the energy sector inside out — the systems, the safety risks, and the communities they power."

"To exclude them from planning discussions is not only disrespectful — it's reckless," Ms Girard said.

The Services Union represents workers across the Energy Industry, including those employed at CS Energy, Powerlink, Energy Queensland, Stanwell, and CleanCo.

"These workers are essential to maintaining reliable power for Queensland households and businesses, particularly as the State transitions towards renewable generation and storage," Ms Girard said.

"The removal of clear closure dates for coal-fired power stations and the decision to extend operations to their "technical life" — or longer — has left coal workers and their communities without certainty or direction."

"This change not only undermines transition planning but leaves workers in limbo about their long-term employment prospects," Ms Girard said.

Equally concerning is the growing role of the private sector in the delivery of new generation, storage, and transmission infrastructure under the Government's new "Investor Gateway" model.

"This approach amounts to the privatisation of Queensland's electricity future by stealth, placing control of essential services in private hands and undermining the long-standing success of public ownership in delivering affordable, reliable energy," Ms Girard said.

"Queensland's publicly owned energy assets belong to Queenslanders!"

“They were built by workers, paid for by taxpayers, and must remain in public hands.”

“Handing them over to private investors will only drive-up prices and reduce accountability,” Ms Girard said.

The Services Union also has serious questions about how the State Government intends to maintain system reliability.

“We do welcome the $1.6 billion electricity maintenance guarantee however, the recent incidents at Callide Power Station — which put workers and the community at risk and disrupted Queensland’s energy supply — underline the urgent need for clear planning, proper maintenance, and a transition that values experience and protects jobs,” Ms Girard said.

“A just transition must also be just for workers; and this means proper consultation, secure jobs, and guaranteed pathways for skills and redeployment - anything less is lip service.”

The Services Union stands ready to work with the State Government and industry, making it clear that workers’ voices must be at the heart of all future planning.

“Queensland’s energy transformation must be an opportunity to create secure jobs, strengthen communities, and build a fairer economy,” Ms Girard said.

“We will ensure our members are never sidelined from shaping their futures at work and in their communities.”

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