



Bulletin



Bulletin No. #667

Date: 17/03/2008

ERGON ENERGY

PROTECTED INDUSTRIAL ACTION BALLOT

URGENT MEMBER MEETINGS BEING HELD

The ASU along with other electricity industry unions approached the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) for a 'protected industrial action' ballot to be conducted of all members employed by Ergon.

We called for this ballot because of the lack of progress made in negotiations for your new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. The AIRC has issued orders for the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to conduct the ballot as a postal ballot.

The Government Is Not Listening On Your Major Issues

Thus far the government have refused to make reasonable offers on the following major aspects of our claim:

- **Wages** – the current offer from management of 3.5% per annum plus 1% productivity bonus is inadequate (total of 13.5% over 3 years)
- **EDSA Allowance** – Management has to date rejected our claim to increase the payment from \$3000 to \$6000 over three years and convert the amount into an all purpose allowance. Management have indicated that the current payments for technical, administrative and professional staff will remain as they are.
- **Sick leave** – no improvements to sick leave have been offered by management and our claims for a payout of sick leave or a portion of cashed out sick leave being put into superannuation have been rejected. Management have offered to establish an 'Emergency Pool' of sick leave money for emergency circumstances where staff have a long-term injury/illness or are carers' to someone who has a long-term injury/illness. The criteria for accessing this pool has not been finalised.
- **Superannuation** – no improvements to superannuation have been offered. Management have specifically rejected increasing the employer contribution and reducing the time it takes to process a temporary disability claim under ESI.
- **Stand-by/On-call Allowances** – no improvements to these allowances have been offered.

BALLOT TIME TABLE

Please note: the ballot will be a formal postal ballot conducted by the AEC.

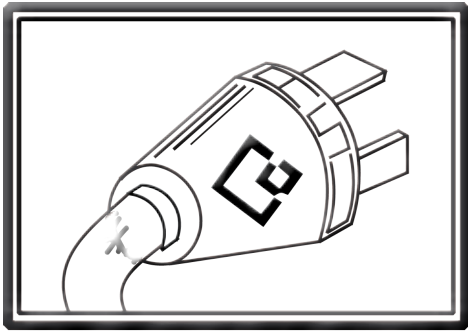
- Ballot papers will be sent to your mailing address by the AEC on 31 March 2008
- Ballot will close on 11 April 2008
- Ballot result will be declared on 14 April 2008

The ballot includes a list of questions covering all the types of industrial action that members may consider taking as part of this campaign. *(For the purpose of this process, both ASU and QSU members will receive the same information from their state branches as we are legally recognised as one union federally – the ASU)*

**VOTE YES AND SEND
A MESSAGE TO THE
GOVERNMENT THAT IT IS
TIME FOR THEM TO LISTEN**

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

All members are encouraged to attend one of the meetings listed on the reverse of this bulletin or if you are unable to attend any of those meetings, contact your local ASU Delegate or Organisers - Donna Webster on 0419 796 467 or John Kelly on 0404 820 632 for further information.



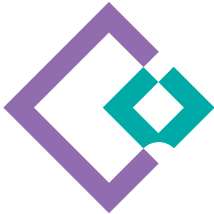
ELECTRICITY

MEETINGS

(These will be combined ASU/QSU meetings)

Date:

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008



A•S•U

Time:

10.00AM

Venue:

**Rockhampton - Richardson Rd.
Rockhampton - Alma St.
Brisbane City Office - 61 Mary St.**

TUESDAY 18 MARCH 2008

A second meeting will be held for members employed at Alma St. Rockhampton – local Delegates will advise the time and place – please check your e-mails!

CAN'T GET TO A MEETING? – DIAL IN FOR OUR TELECONFERENCE

A telephone hook up has been arranged for all members (ASU or QSU) who can not attend one of the urgent meetings listed above but need to hear what is happening.

Delegates are asked to ensure all union members can have access to an area where a speaker phone is available or can attend one of the meetings above. Members are also strongly welcome to phone in from their work locations if they can not access a meeting area with speaker phone.

Phone details: **(07) 3107 0200** PIN number: **366544**

Over the next two weeks, further meetings and phone hook ups will be arranged. Please contact your local ASU Delegates or local Organisers for more information.