



Australian Services Union
www.qld.asu.net.au

Media Release

for immediate release

14/05/08

Attention: Chief of Staff / News Editor

WHITE COLLAR WORKERS UNDERVALUED BY ENERGY EMPLOYERS AND QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

ASU members across the state will stop work for 24 hours on Wednesday after voting exceedingly in favour of industrial action in a secret ballot.

After the lack of progress of negotiations with the Government Owned Corporations (GOC's) Energex, Ergon Energy and Powerlink for their Union Collective Agreement, unions have been left with no option but to take joint industrial action.

The ASU believe the current offer of 4.5 per cent is unacceptable and unreasonable when it is 0.3 per cent lower than the current Consumer Price Index of 4.8 per cent.

There has been no offer of increase on the Network Recovery Payment (NRP). In real terms, due to inflation, over the past three years the NRP has less purchasing power now than it did in 2005. There has been no improvements to Superannuation, which is a vast disadvantage for all workers, particularly workers 40 plus.

ASU Acting Branch Secretary Mary-Anne O'Neill says "For too long now, white collar workers have been undervalued by the power companies. For example, ASU members are the first point of call, in any emergency situation, collecting the information. Their role is just as important as the Linesman repairing it. If that first point of contact isn't professionally handled and the information distributed, then the whole system fails. It's a team effort, we all deserve to be recognised."

Day of Action Rally

When: 14 May 2008

Where: Queens Park, Cnr George St and Elizabeth St, Brisbane City, 4000

Time: 11am

For comment: Mary-Anne O'Neill, ASU Acting Branch Secretary 3252 8666 or 0404 820 635

Further info: Jo-Anne Delacourt Smith ASU Communications Officer 3252 8666 or 0420 979 342