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RED UNIONS PUSH FOR HISTORIC LEGISLATION TO GO FURTHER

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EDWARD SCHULLER



JARROD BLEIJIE

Red unions say the industrial relations reforms proposed by the Queensland government do not go far enough, and will campaign for a full reversal of the laws that Labor introduced.

“We see this as an opportunity to fix what is a very ineffectual bill,” Red Union spokesman Edward Schuller told the Brisbane Times.

They call for the removal of three Palaszczuk-era provisions in Queensland workplace law:

- The “conveniently belong” rule, which limits new unions in a sector where one already exists;
- A definition of industrial association that excludes their organisations;
- And rules on who can represent a worker in the QIRC.

“We’re pushing for a reversal of the 2022 laws which the government are on the record of opposing at the time when they were in opposition.”

In a submission to the Committee, published online on Tuesday, the Red Union Support Hub (RUSH) said the proposed bill did not go far enough to restore its standing.

The submission says it is on behalf of 15,000 Queensland members who “expect the government to follow through on their promises and make the necessary changes to restore the workplace rights the previous Labor government took from them”.

“Non-reversal will be seen as the government misleading the people of Queensland.”

RED UNION SUPPORT HUB

A spokesperson for Bleijie said under the government's proposed changes, red unions would be able to hire a lawyer to go to the QIRC on their behalf.

The spokesperson added that the parliamentary inquiry could recommend further reforms.

However, Red Union has called the bill "wholly inadequate in its current form", saying it fails to secure freedom of association for workers and a return to the former settings.

"When the government introduced this Bill to parliament, they touted it as a mechanism for competition, and a mechanism for freedom of choice. **But this Bill, in it's current form, does none of those things,**" Schuller said.