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Government's IR Changes a Step in the Right Direction, Must Go Further to Restore Freedom of Association

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The Queensland LNP Government has announced it is revisiting the corrupt legislation passed by the Palaszczuk Government in 2022, which sought to shut down the Red Union.

In what was a politically motivated attack, the Labor Government stripped workers of their right to choose who represents them in industrial matters, enforcing a union monopoly.

Following the review of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*, the LNP Government has tabled legislation which lays the groundwork for workers to have greater choice in representation.

Red Union Director Jack McGuire said the 2022 Labor changes were the "greatest destruction of workers rights in this state" and signalled that alternative unions will publicly campaign during the committee process to ensure freedom of association is restored.

"We were targeted by Labor in 2022 for one reason: we don't fund their political machine. Unlike other unions, we don't use our members' money to campaign for the Labor Party - or any political party for that matter."

"We don't think workers in this state should be penalised for not wanting to fund the Labor party and simply choosing a different union to represent them. But at this stage, under the legislation announced last night, workers' freedoms would still be curbed."

"So that's our job for the next 6 weeks - convince the committee and the Government that these changes have not nearly gone far enough."

One reform the Red Union will demand is the reversal of Labor's 2022 ban on industrial agents appearing before the QIRC, with Mr McGuire labelling this as "a non-negotiable."

"Making workers use expensive lawyers for industrial matters in the QIRC is not pro-worker. We'll fight for the rights of the individual, including reforms to the bargaining process to align with the democratic federal system already operating under the *Fair Work Act 2009*."

"Workers should not have their rights limited if they refuse to support the Labor party. If there is legislation which would prohibit workers from organising to create alternative unions, then we will fight it. Our members expect nothing less than complete equality through competitive unionism."

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