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Please address all correspondence to the Secretary: P. J. SIMPSON
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TO ALL MEMBERS ENERGEX, ERGON & POWERLINK

C: 39 /11

9th December 2011

Re: Campaign Update

Dear Member,

The Union has now been reliably informed that one of the big ticket item that is holding up the finalisation of your Agreement, Use of Contractors/Contractor switching, is not a key item from the respective Corporations side, rather it is a **“non negotiable” that the Queensland Treasury and Department of Justice & Attorney General have put up as one all Corporations have to achieve.**

To put this in context, a bunch of burheads sitting in the Queensland Government Executive Building are sitting in judgement on your safety, the safety of contractors and the general public because some clown in Treasury did some calculations on their calculator and determined that forcing the Union to agree to these provisions would be a great idea.

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of ENERGEX, Ergon and Powerlink Executives that are also **salivating** at the thought of being able to get their contractors to carry our **all** facets of **your** job, storms, call outs and general switching work. We have dealt with these people now for over 20 years and stopped them from implementing these provisions at every turn.

Even the current Ergon wording, originally put up by Ergon in the last round and replicated by the others, shows the importance they put on safety in the last Agreement, **so what's now changed?** Current Ergon wording: -

14.3 SINGLE WIRE EARTH RETURN (SWER) REMOTE AREAS

Ergon Energy will ensure all employees working on the High Voltage System will be trained and authorised in accordance with the Electrical Safety Act 2002 (ESA), associated Legislation and established Ergon Energy Policy and Safe Working Procedures (SWPs).

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
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Due to the complex nature of switching on the Ergon Energy High Voltage System and to ensure optimal safety, Ergon Energy will restrict authorisation and access for external service providers to the following:

- High Voltage Switching and Isolation of all Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) transformers for the sole purpose of the repair, maintenance and replacement of the SWER earthing grid;
- Act as Switching Operator Assistants (SOA's) for all High Voltage access and isolation procedures as required;
- Perform Auto Reclose Block (making a Pole Mounted Recloser Non-Auto);
- Act as Access Permit Recipient.

The Parties agree that all such authorised personnel will be regularly audited in accordance with established audit regimes at least annually.

So in 2008 "optimal Safety" was Ergon's prime concern on their "Complex" high voltage system. **In 2011, forget safety**, all of a sudden everything is fine in respect to complexity, it is apparently now a much simpler network. Ergon Energy and the rest must be kidding themselves!

The Union is seeking to get a strategy in place whilst we are waiting for Fair Work Australia to approve our Protected Action Ballot where we will get groups of members to **picket Labor Members of Parliament on their RDO's**, with the appropriate signage that reflects this disgusting state of affairs. **We are calling on all members to give up a few hours per RDO to stand outside your local Labor members' office to let them know that we aren't going to have bureaucrats from Treasury dictating what happens on our jobs, determining our safety or undermining our job security.**

Please discuss this in your depot and coordinate it with your Senior Delegate. If we sit back and do nothing whilst we're in limbo between the protected action ballot and the forced conciliation, we will most certainly lose this battle.

Again, can I reiterate the need for discipline in this dispute and the need for all members to play a role. **Don't just leave it to your Shop Steward to do all the lifting for you.**

I also need to mention that all our Officials share your frustration in this saga, with our members at Ergon Sarina and ENERGEX Slacks Creek, venting their frustration this week by walking off the job. Whilst we are not condoning unprotected action, we can certainly relate to members anger in the current environment.

There will be a further update as soon as we know what is happening in FWA.

For further information, please contact Trevor Gauld (*State Organiser*) on 0488 225 625.

Yours Fraternaly,



P.J. Simpson

Secretary