

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *In the making of the Townsville City Council
(Field and Other Employees) Certified
Agreement 2025 [2026] QIRC 042*

PARTIES: **Townsville City Council**

AND

**The Australian Workers' Union of
Employees, Queensland**

**The Construction, Forestry, Mining &
Energy, Industrial Union of Employees,
Queensland**

**The Electrical Trades Union of Employees
Queensland**

**Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union
Queensland, Union of Employees**

**Transport Workers Union of Australia,
Union of Employees, Queensland branch**

CASE NO: CB/2026/8

PROCEEDING: Application for certification of an agreement

DELIVERED ON: 18 February 2026

HEARING DATE: 18 February 2026

MEMBER: O'Connor VP

HEARD AT: Brisbane

ORDER: ***The Townsville City Council (Field and Other
Employees) Certified Agreement 2025 is
certified.***

CATCHWORDS: INDUSTRIAL LAW – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING – application for certification of an agreement – requirements for certification – Agreement certified

LEGISLATION: *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld), s 189, s 227 and s 228

APPEARANCES: Mr B. Harding for the Townsville City Council

Mr T. Stephens for The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

Mr E. Dagleish for The Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland

Mr R. Whitehurst for the Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees

Reasons for Decision

- [1] On 3 February 2026, the Townsville City Council ('the applicant') applied, pursuant to s 189 of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* ('the Act'), to certify the *Townsville City Council (Field and Other Employees) Certified Agreement 2025* ('the agreement').
- [2] The named parties to the agreement are the applicant and the following employee organisations:
- The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland;
 - The Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland;
 - The Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland;
 - Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees; and
 - Transport Workers Union of Australia, Union of Employees, Queensland branch

- [3] The agreement is signed by the above-mentioned parties. I am satisfied that upon certification, pursuant so s 189(2) of the Act, the agreement will cover all parties and the Council's employees covered by the classifications contained in the agreement.
- [4] Having regard to the submissions made by the parties who appeared today and to the affidavit of Mr Anthony McCabe, Chief Executive Officer of the applicant filed on 3 February 2026;¹
- I am satisfied of each relevant requirement in ch 4, pt 5, div 2, sub-div 2 of the Act; and
 - there is nothing in the agreement which would require me to refuse to grant the application pursuant to ch 4, pt 5, div 2, sub-div 3 of the Act.
- [5] The application to certify the *Townsville City Council (Field and Other Employees) Certified Agreement 2025* is granted.
- [6] The *Townsville City Council (Field and Other Employees) Certified Agreement 2025* operates from the day it is certified, namely 18 February 2026.
- [7] Although the nominal expiry date of the *Townsville City Council (Field and Other Employees) Certified Agreement 2025* is 30 June 2028, it continues to operate until it is terminated under s 227 or s 228 of the Act.
- [8] I make the following order:

The Townsville City Council (Field and Other Employees) Certified Agreement 2025 is certified.

¹ I note the correspondence of Richard Olsen, Branch Secretary of the Transport Workers Union of Australia, Union of Employees, Queensland branch ('TWU') dated 17 February 2026, and the correspondence of Peter Ong, State Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland ('ETU') dated 12 February 2026. Mr Olsen and Mr Ong wrote that the TWU and ETU each respectively support the termination of the existing Agreement and certification of the proposed Agreement but would be unable to attend the hearing.