

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *In the making of the Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* [2026] QIRC 310

PARTIES: **Somerset Regional Council**

AND

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

Transport Workers' Union of Australia, Union of Employees (Queensland Branch)

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

Automotive, Metals, Engineering, Printing and Kindred Industries Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland

CASE NO: CB/2026/82

PROCEEDING: Application for certification of an agreement

DELIVERED ON: 29 September 2026

HEARING DATE: 29 September 2026

HEARD AT: Brisbane

MEMBER: Dwyer IC

ORDER: ***The Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026 is certified.***

CATCHWORDS: INDUSTRIAL LAW – QUEENSLAND – AGREEMENTS – Application for certification of an agreement – Requirements for certification – Agreement certified.

LEGISLATION: *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld), s 189, ch 4, pt 5, div 2, sub-divs 2 and 3, s 227 and s 228

APPEARANCES: Ms A Farmer of the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) and Ms B March for Somerset Regional Council

Reasons for Decision

- [1] On 8 September 2026, the *Somerset Regional Council* ('the Applicant'), pursuant to s 189 of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld) ('the IR Act'), made an application to certify the *Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* ('the agreement').
- [2] The named parties to the agreement are the Applicant and the following employee organisations:
 - (a) The Australian Workers' Union of Employees. Queensland
 - (b) Transport Workers' Union of Australia, Union of Employees (Queensland Branch
 - (c) Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland; and
 - (d) Automotive, Metals, Engineering, Printing and Kindred Industries Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland
- [3] The agreement is signed by all the above-mentioned parties.
- [4] The agreement applies to:
 - (a) the Applicant;
 - (b) the Applicant's employees covered by the classifications contained in the agreement; and
 - (c) the employee organisations named in paragraph [2] above.
- [5] Having regard to the submissions made by the parties who appeared today and to the affidavit of Mr Andrew Johnson, Chief Executive Officer for the Applicant, filed on 8 September 2026:
 - (a) I am satisfied of each relevant requirement in ch 4 pt 5 div 2 sub-div 2 of the Act; and
 - (b) 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.
- [6] The application to certify the *Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* is granted.
- [7] The *Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* operates from the day it is certified, namely, 29 September 2026.
- [8] Although the nominal expiry date of the *Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* is 30 June 2029, it continues to operate until it is terminated under ss 227 or 228 of the Act.

[9] I make the following order:

1. **The *Somerset Regional Council – Field Staff Certified Agreement 2026* is certified.**