

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *In the making of the Tablelands Regional Council & Unions Certified Agreement 2026* [2026] QIRC 340

PARTIES: **Tablelands Regional Council**

AND

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees

Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees

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

CASE NO: CB/2026/84

PROCEEDING: Application for certification of an agreement

DELIVERED ON: 23 October 2026

HEARING DATE: 13 October 2026

HEARD AT: Brisbane

MEMBER: McLennan IC

ORDER: **1. The *Tablelands Regional Council & Unions Certified Agreement 2026* is certified.**

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

LEGISLATION: *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld) ch 4

APPEARANCES: Ms A. Farmer for the Local Government Association of Queensland

Ms K. Edwards on behalf of the Tablelands Regional Council

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

Mr J. Donaghy for Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees

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

Reasons for Decision

- [1] On 9 September 2026, the Tablelands Regional Council ('TRC') made an application pursuant to s 189 of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld) ('the IR Act') to certify the *Tablelands Regional Council & Unions Certified Agreement 2026* ('the Agreement').
- [2] The named parties to the Agreement are TRC and the following employee organisation:
 - The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland
 - Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees
 - Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees
 - Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland
- [3] The Commission is satisfied that all parties have agreed on the terms of the Agreement, which were approved by a valid majority of relevant employees in a properly conducted ballot.
- [4] Along with TRC, The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland, Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees and the Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees appeared today and consented to the present application. No other person appeared or sought to make submissions.
- [5] The Agreement covers all TRC employees as set out in Clause 12.1 of the Agreement.
- [6] Having regard to the submissions made by the parties who appeared at the hearing today, as well as the Affidavit of Dr Nikola Stepanov, Chief Executive Officer of TRC filed on 9 September 2026:
 - I am satisfied of each relevant requirement in ch 4 pt 5 div 2 sub-div 2 of the IR 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 IR Act.

- [7] The application to certify the Agreement is granted. The Agreement operates from the day it is certified, which is 23 October 2026.
- [8] Although the nominal expiry date of the Agreement is 30 June 2029, it continues to operate until it is terminated under the IR Act.
- [9] I make the following order:

The Tablelands Regional Council & Unions Certified Agreement 2026 is certified.