

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *In the making of the Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff Certified Agreement - 2026* [2026] QIRC 324

PARTIES: **Western Downs Regional Council**

AND

Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees

AND

Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

CASE NO: CB/2026/86

PROCEEDING: Application for certification of an agreement

DELIVERED ON: 15 October 2026

HEARING DATE: 15 October 2026

MEMBER: Pidgeon IC

HEARD AT: Brisbane

ORDER: ***The Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff 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*, ss 189, 227, 228

APPEARANCES: Ms A Farmer of the Local Government Association of Queensland Ltd for Western Downs Regional Council

Mr J Donaghy on behalf of Queensland Services,
Industrial Union of Employees

Mr T Stephens on behalf of the Australian
Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

Reasons for Decision

- [1] On 29 September 2026, Western Downs Regional Council ('the Applicant'), pursuant to s 189 of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld) ('the Act'), made an application to certify the *Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff Certified Agreement - 2026*. ('the agreement').
- [2] As required by s 189(3) of the Act, the application was made within 21-days of the date on which the agreement was made.
- [3] The named parties to the agreement are the Applicant; Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees and the Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland.
- [4] The agreement is signed by all the above-mentioned parties apart from the Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland. Though I note the correspondence of the Union on 24 September 2026 to Western Downs Regional Council advising that the Union supports the certification and 'have entered the agreements' into their internal process for signing by the Secretary.
- [5] Having regard to the submissions made by the parties who appeared today, and to the affidavit of Ms Jodie Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Western Downs Regional Council, sworn on 22 September 2026:
 - 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.
- [6] The application to certify the *Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff Certified Agreement - 2026* is granted.
- [7] The *Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff Certified Agreement - 2026* operates from the day it is certified, namely 15 October 2026.
- [8] Although the nominal expiry date of the agreement is 26 March 2029, it continues to operate until it is terminated under s 227 or s 228 of the Act.

[9] I make the following order:

1. **The *Western Downs Regional Council Non-Operational Staff Certified Agreement - 2026* is certified.**