

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

CITATION: *In the making of the Western Downs Regional Council Operational Staff Certified Agreement – 2026 [2026] QIRC 326*

PARTIES: **Western Downs Regional Council**

AND

The Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland

AND

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

AND

Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees

AND

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

AND

The Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland

AND

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

AND

Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees

CASE NO: CB/2026/88

PROCEEDING: Application for certification of an agreement

DELIVERED ON: 15 October 2026

HEARING DATE: 15 October 2026

HEARD AT: Brisbane

MEMBER: Pidgeon IC

ORDER: ***The Western Downs Regional Council Operational 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 Ltd for Western Downs Regional Council

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

Mr E Dalglish on behalf of the Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland

Reasons for Decision

- [1] On 29 September 2026, the Western Downs Regional Council ('the Applicant'), pursuant to s 189 of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016* (Qld) ('the IR Act'), made an application to

certify the *Western Downs Regional Council 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 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) Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees
 - (d) Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy, Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland
 - (e) The Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland
 - (f) Automotive, Metals, Engineering, Printing and Kindred Industries Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland
 - (g) Queensland Services, Industrial Union of Employees
- [4] The agreement is signed by all the above-mentioned parties apart from the Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland and the Australian Workers' Union of Employees, Queensland.
- [5] Having regard to the submissions made by the parties who appeared today¹ and to the affidavit of Ms Jodie Taylor, Chief Executive Officer for the Applicant, filed on 29 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.

¹ I note the correspondence of the Transport Workers' Union of Australia, Union of Employees (Queensland Branch), Plumbers & Gasfitters Employees' Union Queensland, Union of Employees, The Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland and the Automotive, Metals, Engineering, Printing and Kindred Industries Industrial Union of Employees, Queensland confirming their consent for the applications for termination and certification.

- [6] The application to certify the *Western Downs Regional Council Operational Staff Certified Agreement – 2026* is granted.
- [7] The *Western Downs Regional Council Operational Staff Certified Agreement – 2026* operates from the day it is certified, namely, 15 October 2026.
- [8] Although the nominal expiry date of the *Western Downs Regional Council Operational Staff Certified Agreement – 2026* is 26 March 2029, it continues to operate until it is terminated under ss 227 or 228 of the Act.

Order

- [9] I make the following order:

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