

STRONGER TOGETHER

AMALGAMATED AWU (SA) STATE UNION
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PETER LAMPS Branch Secretary



Dear AWU Local Government Member,

I take this opportunity to write to you and appreciate you taking a moment to read this. Over the last week a number of Councils have taken or attempted to take the opportunity to make unilateral decisions in, amongst other things, change to our members, Hours of Work, Shift arrangements, Annual Leave arrangements, Personal Leave Arrangements and Stand Down provisions. Your Union has been working across a number of Councils in conjunction with the LGA to correct this misinformation being provided to councils especially in the areas as to whether Local Government is an "essential service"

Firstly and as confirmed by the Local Government Minister in South Australia, Local Government is an Essential Service. No ifs or buts. The State Government has made it patently clear that it expects Local Government to continue providing those services during this period and do its part for the economy. Therefore there is no need to Shut Down parts of or indeed all of the business! This has been amplified by the Federal Government. Nor is there a need for Employees to access their Leave unless and in accordance with their Agreement they seek to access such leave in the normal way.

Any contrary information is incorrect and Members are encouraged to speak to their Delegate in the first instance if your Employer is saying otherwise. During this time it must be acknowledged that the way work is performed at some councils may vary however such variance does not come at the cost where the Member be forced to access Leave or be Stood Down and the AWU's position is that change needs to be genuinely consulted and communicated in accordance with the Relevant Award and Agreement.

Your Union continues through the relevant Official to correct and re-educate Councils who have clearly "got it wrong". Your Union appreciates your support during this time and will endeavour with that support to continue representing Members industrial interests during this challenging period.

Yours fraternally,

Peter Lamps

State Union Secretary

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