

## Ergon Protected Action Ballot

**Negotiations with Ergon management for your new Collective Agreement have been ongoing over 22 meetings since June, 2011. Without the prospect of soon reaching an agreement, members are now left with the option of Protected Action to further encourage progress with our claims.**

An application for a Protected Action Ballot was lodged with Fair Work Australia (FWA) by your union representatives on Wednesday 2 November, with orders being granted by FWA on Friday 4 November, 2011 for the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) to conduct a Protected Action Ballot for Ergon members.

### What is Protected Action?

Protected Action is industrial action taken by union members that has been authorised by FWA in the pursuit of bargaining outcomes. As a financial union member, you are protected from any adverse action by your employer when participating in lawful industrial action. **Only financial union members are protected.**

### What is a Protected Action Ballot?

A Protected Action Ballot is an application made to FWA for employees to take certain protected industrial actions in order to encourage further negotiation with the employer when genuine bargaining fails to achieve agreement. The ballot will be conducted via mail by the AEC.

Industrial action is authorised by a ballot if:

- at least 50 per cent of those on the voting roll participated in the ballot, and
- more than 50 per cent of votes cast were in favour of the industrial action.

### The Process

Members will receive ballot papers from the AEC outlining the proposed action/s over the coming weeks. Members will be required to indicate the types of industrial action they will support and return completed ballots to the AEC for a determination regarding support of the proposed industrial action/s.

Workplace meetings will be held over the coming weeks to brief members on the progress and outcome of this ballot. Members will be advised of these meetings in due course.

***Remember, only financial union members are protected.  
JOIN YOUR UNION TODAY - go to: [www.together.org.au](http://www.together.org.au)***

For more information about this bulletin, please contact ASU Delegate, Maree Bock on 0458 284 937 or your ASU Organiser, Ashleigh Saunders on 07 4922 3071 or alternatively email: [members@qld.asu.net.au](mailto:members@qld.asu.net.au)

## YOUR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT – YOUR SAY