

The Hon. Mike Baird MP
Premier
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

22 February, 2016

Dear Premier.

I am writing to you in relation to the devastating Cyclone Winston that hit the island nation of Fiji over the weekend and the opportunity that exists for New South Wales to assist.

As you are aware recent decisions by management at Ausgrid, Essential Energy and Endeavour Energy has resulted in more than two hundred employees' across the state being classified as "excess to requirements" or "redeployees".

Despite a requirement under some existing workplace agreements that these workers be provided meaningful work this has not happened with many of these workers being told to simply sit in depots and not interact with other staff despite back logs in local network maintenance and servicing work.

This being the case, I believe NSW is in a very strong position to be able to offer real and meaningful assistance to the people of Fiji through the quick deployment of a team of highly skilled electrical workers to assist in the re-building and repair of Fiji's electricity network.

It is a fact that once power is restored other recovery efforts can occur more broadly and more quickly. Given that the publicly owned NSW electricity companies have the resources available I am asking you to seek volunteers from the workforce to travel to Fiji to assist in recovery efforts.

Assistance may be required from the Commonwealth to liaise with the government of Fiji in order to establish the number of power workers and the type of skills needed to ensure the best response on the ground. Logistical support may also be required from the Commonwealth to assist in getting these crews safely to Fiji and arranging suitable accommodation and meals while they are in situ.

I encourage you to consider this request, one that I believe will make a significant difference to the people of Fiji, while putting to work hundreds of highly trained power workers currently not being utilised by NSW.

Yours Sincerely,



Steve Butler
Secretary

Level 5, 370 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9267 4844
Fax: 02 9267 4877

26 Wardbrook Bvd
Wardbrook NSW 2304
Phone: 02 4968 2488
Fax: 02 4968 3466

Level 2, 63 Market Street
Wollongong NSW 2500
Phone: 02 4229 8711
Fax: 02 4228 5636

25-27 Darling Street
PO Box 126
Mitchell ACT 2911
Phone: 61 63 6666
Fax: 61 63 6667

