The Role of Regional Labour Councils in Queensland
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This paper describes research done recently on regional labour councils in Queensland. Regional labour councils are affiliated with the Queensland Council of Unions, and are charged under the QCU’s constitution with fulfilling its objects at a regional level. No research has been done to date on state-based networks of state union peak councils, although work has been done on individual regional councils. This paper therefore fills a niche by exploring the resourcing, financing and activities of regional labour councils. The paper adopts a human geography approach to examine the extent to which labour councils are able to, and actually do, carry out their objects, and the way in which they further the organising agenda of the labour movement. While the research is not yet completed, preliminary findings are that the councils are traditionally poorly resourced, but that they perform a useful function in building networks and relationships amongst unions in the regions, and that they contain further potential to advance the organizing agenda of the movement.