



Steven Miles

DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

28 October 2020

Ms Davina Rooney
Chief Executive Officer
Green Building Council of Australia
By email: Davina.Rooney@gbca.org.au

Dear Ms Rooney

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2020 to Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk regarding Labor's policy recommendations for the 2020 Queensland election, and your policy proposals. The Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong health response to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we can now start to deliver our plan for economic recovery. This plan will support jobs, help small business, invest in Queensland's manufacturing industry, buy local, and bring forward new infrastructure for local communities.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will develop a Climate Action Plan 2020-2030, to build on the action we have already taken under the Queensland Climate Transition Strategy which we released in 2017. The Action Plan will guide the next stage of our post-2020 climate pathway. The importance of climate change readiness is widely acknowledged in corporate Queensland and the community, with major resources companies publishing climate plans, and as evidenced by the widespread community conversation during the recent bushfires. We will therefore seek wide industry and community involvement in this process to ensure buy-in across Queensland, involving environment organisations, industry and community representatives.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government set a target for one million rooftops or 3,000 megawatts of solar photovoltaics in Queensland by 2020. This goal was reached in October 2018, two years early. More than 600,000 Queensland households and businesses now have a solar system installed, with rooftop and large-scale solar generating more than 5000 megawatts. Rooftop solar is now effectively Queensland's largest power station.

Four of the top five, and six of the top 10, solar postcodes in Australia are in Queensland. Bundaberg is number one with 13,942 installations providing 57,083 kW of clean energy capacity in 2019. Hervey Bay, Mackay and Toowoomba, Caloundra and Beenleigh are other postcodes in the nation's top 10.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to improving the liveability, energy efficiency, affordability and sustainability of public housing properties. New public housing properties are built to national liveable housing design standards. Our Solar on Public Housing Trial has installed solar panels on 840 public housing properties across Cairns and Rockhampton, providing tenants the benefit of reduced energy costs. We are working to develop a sustainable model to support the extension of this trial to more vulnerable public housing tenants.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is also trialling a 200-kilowatt rooftop solar farm in Lockhart River to reduce the community's use of diesel power and improve affordability through the installation of 750 rooftop solar panels on Government buildings.

These programs complement the Solar for Renters trial, which installed 670 solar systems on private rental properties, with tenants on average \$600 better off after a fair rent increase.

Under the previous Newman-Frecklington LNP Government, investment in renewable energy dried up, and no large-scale renewable projects were delivered.

Additionally, the Palaszczuk Labor Government will invest \$30 million over the next two years in energy efficiency projects in Queensland hospitals and health facilities to reduce electricity costs and boost local jobs. The energy efficiency projects will include the installation of more than five megawatts of photovoltaic solar systems and roll out upgrades to improve the efficiency of lighting and air conditioning. By switching to renewable energy and installing energy efficient fittings, we can save around \$5 million every year on our electricity costs. These projects will reduce annual carbon emissions in the order of 24,000 tonnes of carbon-dioxide.

The program will be managed by a new Office of Hospital Sustainability within the Department of Health. The office will also be tasked with future emissions reduction initiatives in Queensland Health, demonstrating a long-term commitment to sustainability.

This investment plan contrasts with the LNP's plan to get to a surplus in four years, requiring significant budget cuts putting the investment and jobs that this program will generate at risk.

Our government has been strongly committed to providing Queenslanders the opportunity to gain the skills and training they need for the industries of today and of the future. We know that by investing in these opportunities, we are building a stronger, more sustainable and resilient Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's record of investing in TAFE speaks for itself. We have invested over \$150 million in redeveloping and modernising TAFE campuses – from the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast and out to Mount Isa and Roma.

If re-elected, the Palaszczuk Labor Government will invest an additional \$100 million into equipping our TAFEs for the future, which includes:

- advanced manufacturing hubs in Cairns, Townsville and Eagle Farm;
- agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture training centres in Bowen, Bundaberg and Cannonvale with an expansion of the Rural Centre of Excellence in Toowoomba;
- robotics training in Eagle Farm, South Bank and Ipswich;
- a new hydrogen and renewable energy training facility in Townsville;
- new cyber security operations training centre in Cairns, Mooloolaba and South Bank
- fitout for a new Robina TAFE
- investment into CQUniversity to expand the Mackay Ooralea Trade Training Centre and to help kickstart CQU's TAFE Centre of Excellence in Rockhampton.

We are also committed to expanding our free TAFE and free apprenticeships program to include all young Queenslanders under 25. This ensures that an additional 37,000 young people throughout Queensland can take advantage of free training in 165 priority qualifications.

Our investment in modernising TAFE training facilities as well as free and subsidised qualifications will train the skilled workforces each region will need to meet the demands of growth and emerging sectors, as well as our traditional industries.

We know that the LNP cannot be trusted when it comes to skilling and training, especially when it comes to sustainability. They have no skills plan for Queenslanders and when last in government, they cut \$170 million from TAFE. This resulted in 40,000 Queenslanders being priced out of a TAFE qualification and helped drive the skills shortage in Queensland.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue to engage with industry partners and stakeholders to ensure Queenslanders get the most up-to-date and cutting-edge training they need. We will also continue our work with Construction Skills Queensland to identify opportunities for current and future workers to upskill Queensland's construction workforce to prepare and respond to emerging opportunities.

Now is not the time to risk the LNP's cuts. Queensland's ongoing economic and health recovery requires leadership and stability, and Deb Frecklington and the LNP are a risk to our recovery.

I urge you to communicate this message with your members and supporters. Should the Palaszczuk Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to working with you for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services