Dear Mr. Cartledge,

Thank you for your correspondence and your invitation to outline the ALP’s response to your election priorities. Please see below our responses to your individual priorities.

**A national plan for decarbonising the built environment leveraging the GBCA’s Carbon Positive Roadmap, lifting the energy efficiency standards for buildings in the National Construction Code and facilitating policies which target the emissions reduction potential of the mid-tier office building sector.**

Labor will establish a tripartite built environment innovation council to develop an innovation roadmap for the sector that recognises the need to engage with industry to improve building regulation in Australia through a more proactive development and enforcement of the National Construction Code. Developing a roadmap to reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency standards will be a priority for the council.

**Regulatory settings to provide business certainty and support investments in cost effective energy efficiency measures, design and construction practices as well as innovative technologies for emissions reduction.**

A Shorten Labor Government will drive new investment in renewable energy generation and storage and transform Australia’s energy supply systems – delivering more renewables and cheaper, cleaner power for all Australians.

Our Plan for More Renewable Energy and Cheaper Power includes a ten-year energy investment framework that delivers certainty for industry, lower power prices and more reliability.

Labor’s preference is to achieve a bi-partisan agreement on energy policy. But Scott Morrison and the Liberals are too divided and too out of touch to agree among themselves on an energy policy that can lower prices, boost renewables and address climate change.

Labor will continue to pursue a bipartisan market mechanism, such as a National Energy Guarantee, that could deliver on our commitment of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030 while lowering prices for Australian families and business.

In addition, Labor will provide an additional $10 billion to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to support renewable energy and storage investment and establish a Neighborhood Renewables Program, which will establish the Community Power Network and up to 10 Community Power Hubs to support the development of renewables projects in local communities, such as solar gardens on apartment rooftops; community wind farms; energy efficiency upgrades for social housing; and grants for community groups to pilot new projects.

**Implementing a comprehensive, bipartisan and evidence-based plan for Australia’s growth and settlement, resourcing the acceleration of City Deals and building capacity across state governments to integrate transport with land use planning.**

Labor will overhaul and replace the Government’s City Deals with a City Partnerships program that will foster more genuine collaboration between the three levels of government. To achieve this Labor will re-establish the Major Cities Unit within the independent Infrastructure Australia and task it...
with recommending and assessing the progress of City Partnerships. We will establish an expert panel tasked with updating strategic planning guidelines for cities as well as developing guidelines for City Partnerships; refreshing the National Urban Policy; and ensuring that City Partnerships – while being tailored and flexible – set out a strategic vision that aligns with the National Urban Policy and delivers on pre-determined performance indicators.

This will ensure a better-quality outcome for all cities. Labor will honour pre-existing financial commitments and enrich any current City Deal to make them true drivers of economic development.

In addition to our City Partnerships policy, Labor will work with states, territories and local government to:

- Invest in properly integrated transport systems involving public transport and roads.
- Invest in active transport solutions which connect with public transport, education and employment hubs closer to where people live.
- Improve housing affordability through the use of urban planning, land supply and incentives.
- Drive alignment of funding for smart and sustainable urban infrastructure.
- Align greater housing density with public transport corridors.
- Promote jobs growth in outer and middle ring suburbs. This could be through direct investment, for example investing in research precincts around universities and hospitals, through consideration of incentives for the location of business, and supporting innovative funding models for local governments in high growth areas.
- Coordinate Federal Government policy and Federal Government work with states, territories and local government to support connectivity and productivity.
- Earlier integration of water, wastewater and stormwater into urban planning to improve overall (including health and liveability) outcomes for our cities and regions.
- Incorporate action on climate change into major urban strategic plans (mitigation and adaptation).
- Facilitate the transition to renewable energy by supporting urban innovation and green urban growth e.g. net zero carbon and liveable precincts.

Delivering greater value for money and unlocking untapped opportunities from social infrastructure projects through a more consistent and integrated approach to infrastructure decision making and the use of certification and assurance frameworks.

There are overwhelming calls for certainty in infrastructure decision-making, and for a bipartisan pipeline of future projects that communities and the industry can plan for.

Labor’s stable infrastructure leadership, including the same Leader, Shadow Treasurer and Infrastructure spokesperson over a six-year period contrasts with the Liberals three leaders, three Treasurers and four Infrastructure Ministers, each with very different approaches to infrastructure.

Labor established Infrastructure Australia in 2008 to provide independent, expert advice on national priority projects. A Shorten Labor Government will ensure that Infrastructure Australia assesses all major infrastructure projects for the benefits they provide to the economy.

Labor will return Infrastructure Australia to the centre of the government’s decision-making process – and we’ll respect its advice. Instead of cuts, Labor will provide Infrastructure Australia with the resources it needs to perform its core functions, including producing an infrastructure pipeline and recommending financing, policy and reform initiatives.
Labor will abolish the Infrastructure Financing Agency and reallocate its funding to Infrastructure Australia to enhance its ability to deliver on its core functions.

Labor will also:

- Re-establish the Major Cities Unit within the independent Infrastructure Australia.
- Require project proponents to demonstrate their transport proposals make use of the latest technology.
- Require project proponents to demonstrate their transport proposals integrate active transport options.

To underscore a bipartisan approach, Labor has committed to consult with the Opposition on all Infrastructure Australia board appointments. It’s time to end the politicisation of Infrastructure Australia Board appointments.

Enabling affordable, sustainable housing to meet existing and forecast demand, by having regard to challenges around planning for supply and diversity, sustainability and innovative and effective community engagement.

Australia is in the midst of a housing affordability and homelessness crisis. Rates of home ownership have plummeted to historic lows, record numbers of Australian families are experiencing rental and mortgage stress, and many of the most vulnerable in our communities are at risk or experiencing homelessness.

In stark contrast to the Liberal Government’s six years of contemptuous neglect, Labor believes the housing affordability crisis and increasing homelessness are nationally significant social and economic challenges that must be addressed. To that end, Labor has a comprehensive plan to tackle the housing affordability crisis: increase supply; combat growing intergenerational inequality; support jobs and skills; assist Budget repair; and improve financial stability.

Any housing affordability package that doesn’t involve reforms to negative gearing and the capital gains tax discount is a sham.

Labor will build 250,000 new affordable rental homes over the next decade in partnership with the community housing sector for Australians on low and moderate incomes. We will also provide a timely boost to the housing market by encouraging institutional investors into the housing market through new Build to Rent tax concessions, encouraging more construction and stimulating the housing market.

We will also provide $88 million over two years for a new Safe Housing Fund to increase transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, young people exiting out-of-home care and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness; and develop and implement a national plan to reduce homelessness through the Council of Australian Governments.

Thank you for the opportunity to outline our positions.

Yours sincerely

Australian Labor