



Jo-Anne Bragg
CEO, Environmental Defenders Office (Qld) Inc.
By email: edogld@edogld.org.au

Thursday 16 November 2017

Dear Ms Bragg,

EDO's 7 key changes - Queensland Greens Response

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to EDO's *7 Key Changes Needed to Queensland environmental law*.

The Queensland Greens were founded on the principle of protecting our planet so it gives me great pleasure to provide our responses below.

Citizen Rights

The Queensland Greens support all of these reforms.

Further to these reforms, our *Planning for People, Not Profit* policy initiative also calls for a fundamental overhaul of the *State Development Act* and the *Economic Development Act* to limit priority development areas to State-owned and State-run projects rather than for-profit projects. This would mean that for-profit projects which currently avoid proper assessment and appeal rights would be subject to proper impact assessments.

The Greens would also extend full "merits review" to any "material change of use" under special development zones like State Development Areas.

Fair Democratic Process

The Queensland Greens support all of these reforms.

Our *Ban Corruption in Queensland* policy initiative calls for a ban on all donations from for-profit corporations, including property developers. We would also jam the revolving door between big business and politics by banning cash-for-access meetings, extend cool off periods for lobbyist and strengthen our corruption watchdog.

Great Barrier Reef and Nature

The Queensland Greens support all of these reforms.

We are calling for a rescue package for the Reef. We need urgent action to stop water pollution, runaway tree clearing, overfishing and poisonous pesticide runoff. This will include catchment-specific targets for runoff and minimum standards for agricultural, construction and other activity within Reef catchments. These regulations would ramp up over time. The Greens would boost funding to help farmers tackle water

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pollution, funded via our plans to make sure mining companies and property developers pay their fair share.

The Queensland Greens support fully funding and implementing the recommendations of the Queensland government's Water Science Task Force.

The Greens support a ban on new coal mines and coal mine expansions, and a ban on fracking.

Safe Climate and Clean Energy

The Queensland Greens have announced a plan for a rapid transition to 100% publicly-owned clean energy as part of a transition to a zero-pollution economy. Our *Power for People Plan* would invest \$15 billion within 5 years and would establish a long-term objective of 100% community and public ownership for our energy system. Our plan would create 5,500 jobs every single year.

Our plan for a transition to clean energy and away from fossil fuel extraction includes a plan to help workers and communities affected by the transition. Our future must be cleaner, but it must also be fairer.

The Greens support a ban on new coal mines and coal mine expansions, and a ban on fracking.

Excessive Tree Clearing

The Queensland Greens strongly support restoring Queensland's world-class protections for native forests and vegetation. We have called for strong protections for Queensland's precious native bush for decades.

The Greens also support emergency measures to protect all native wildlife and ecosystems from coal and gas mining, property development and other threats.

The Queensland Greens have been critical of the "offsets" regime for many years. It is critical that we halt destruction of our native ecosystems rather than inventing dubious excuses to continue unconstrained development.

Clean Up Queensland

The Queensland Greens support all of these reforms.

Cleaning up Queensland's abandoned mines will involve a huge investment of billions of dollars, it also creates thousands of jobs for coal workers in the very same communities where jobs are already being lost. The Greens would ensure that all mines are rehabilitated and all final voids must be filled, unless a safe, non-polluting alternative which has the support of local residents is identified.

The Queensland Greens support a ban on new coal mines and coal mine expansions, and a ban on fracking.

Access to Justice

The Queensland Greens support increasing government funding to the EDO Qld.

You can find more information on our full suite of election commitments here:

<https://greens.org.au/initiatives/gld>

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Amy MacMahon

Queensland Greens Candidate for South Brisbane