

Ms Jo-Anne Bragg  
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Sent by email: [jbragg@edoqld.org.au](mailto:jbragg@edoqld.org.au)

Dear Jo-Anne

Thank you for your letter, in which you sought the Palaszczuk Government's position on a range of policy areas, with a focus on environmental outcomes and community engagement and participation.

A detailed response is attached, however it is important to initially focus on the main political challenge of this election.

There is only one party capable of winning a majority that also supports:

- no public funding for the Adani coal mine
- a 50% by 2030 renewable energy target to shift reliance on fossil fuels and create sustainable jobs
- responsible transition to a zero net emissions economy by 2050
- a sensible land-clearing policy aimed at stopping the record broad scale clearing occurring under the Newman-Nicholls era laws
- an ongoing program to expand our protected area estate
- a \$5.4 billion investment in public transport through Cross River Rail where traffic is at its worst
- full implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan, including substantial funding for water quality improvement and new, stronger regulations to cut pollution;
- work with stakeholders to progress and implement the recommendations of the Koala Expert Panel
- a strengthened environmental regulator, bolstered by a \$25 million program of reform
- a requirement that all land disturbed by mining activities is rehabilitated to a safe and stable landform that does not cause environmental harm and is able to sustain an approved post-mining land use
- protection of community appeal rights and 'own costs' rules under the Planning Act 2016
- transparent and tough political disclosure laws
- ongoing funding of the Environmental Defenders Office, through the triennial CLC process.

A LNP-One Nation majority puts all this good work at risk with the election of Tim Nicholls as Premier beholden to Steve Dickson, under the direction of Pauline Hanson.



The Palaszczuk Government is the only option to maintain and enhance environmental protection. Other alternatives are simply not viable or a potential disaster for the environment. It's that simple.

I urge you to communicate this message to your members and interested stakeholders and I commend the attached detailed response to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jackie Trad', written over a vertical line.

**JACKIE TRAD MP**  
**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
**Minister for Transport and**  
**Minister for Infrastructure and Planning**

## PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S OFFICE

### I. **Citizen Rights** - *Strengthen community rights to information, objection, appeal and enforcement, especially for coal seam gas, mining and planning. Preserve "own costs" rules in the Planning and Environment Court.*

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to a transparency and accountability, and supports the right to information and community access to public documents.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue building on its proven record of setting strong standards for environmental protection and compliance, as well as protecting community access information and involvement in setting standards and benchmarks.

The Palaszczuk Government re-introduced the 'own costs' rule in the Planning Act 2016 after it was removed by the former LNP government. A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will retain this provision so that the community can challenge developments in the Planning and Environment Court without fear of costs being awarded against them.

The Palaszczuk Government also successfully implemented the *Planning and Environmental Court Act 2016*. A re-elected Palaszczuk government will retain the Act in its current form, refining any operational matters in consultation with key stakeholders.

The community and third parties will continue to be able to seek representation by their elected government (at local or state level) to remedy breaches of legislation or approval conditions, including legal challenge. As well, legislation such as the Planning Act allows any other party to seek remedies or penalties for compliance breaches through the courts.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will continue to review legislation to ensure that the rights of the community are enforced.

### II. **Fair Democratic Processes** - *Ban developer and corporate political donations. Strengthen and restore powers to the State Environment Department.*

The Palaszczuk Government has worked tirelessly on a rolling reform agenda to improve transparency and accountability across all levels of government. Our work ensured that the *Local Government Electoral (Transparency and Accountability in Local Government) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* was passed by Parliament.

Further, the Palaszczuk Government introduced the *Local Government Electoral (Implementing Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017* to prohibit property developer donations at the State and local levels of government. This prohibition included a property developer and their close associates, such as related corporations, directors and their spouses, and any industry representative organisation whose members are mainly property developers.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will work to pass this Bill through Parliament.

We also support improved accessibility to information under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. Indeed under the Palaszczuk Government, the Environmental Authority register has been published online and a new online register of enforcement actions published. Improved community access to information is key focus of the \$25 million program established under our government to strengthen Queensland's environmental regulator. Under this

program the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will continue to shift public register information online, including more information on environmental approvals, enforcement actions, monitoring information, financial assurance decisions and documents that accompany an environmental authority application.

**III. Great Barrier Reef and Nature** - *Strengthen laws against unsustainable development, water pollution and carbon pollution. Protect pristine rivers, national parks, and wildlife. Expand "no go" areas for mining and gas.*

The Palaszczuk Government will maintain our commitment to the Reef 2050 Long Term Sustainability Plan and implement, in full, the recommendations of the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce. This includes a new regulatory framework to drive reduction in water pollution in accordance with the Taskforce's recommendations.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will also end broad scale land clearing through new laws to protect remnant and high conservation non remnant vegetation including riparian vegetation in all six great barrier reef catchments.

Queensland's wild rivers have an intrinsic value to the state. Many stakeholders have expressed their disappointment that the strong protections put in place by the previous Labor government were repealed by the LNP under Campbell Newman. The make-up of the parliament in this term made it difficult to restore the protections that the Wild Rivers declaration provided. A re-elected Labor government will work with traditional owners, stakeholders and communities to ensure our state's pristine rivers are protected. This will include a review of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, introduced by the former LNP government.

The Palaszczuk Government has increased Queensland's protected areas by 97,815.23 hectares. We will continue to acquire new areas for national park and work with private landholders to provide protections for pristine habitat on their properties consistent with those granted for national parks.

In early 2017 the Palaszczuk Government released the draft Protected Area Strategy for public consultation. A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will release and implement a Queensland Protected Area Strategy that will establish a world-leading protected area system that effectively conserves the State's unique natural assets for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

**IV. Safe Climate and Clean Energy** - *Transition Qld's economy away from fossil fuel extraction or burning, towards renewable energy and sustainable jobs.*

The Palaszczuk Government has taken significant steps to support the transition of our economy from fossil fuels to renewable and sustainable energy sources. We have shown leadership by signing the Under2MOU, releasing our Climate Transition and Adaptation Strategies, as well as our aim to achieve 50% renewable energy by 2030. This sets us on a path to achieve our target of transition to a zero net emissions economy by 2050.

A re-elected Labor government will implement the Queensland Climate Transition and Adaptation Strategies, including economic transition plans for a range of regional economies and a clear focus on creating the sustainable economy jobs of the future in Queensland.

We will veto any funding under the Northern Australia Infrastructure Fund for Adani's Carmichael Coal Mine and Rail project.

We have introduced a range of initiatives to support investment into renewables, and as a result Queensland has benefitted from 20 large-scale projects that have progressed to construction or finalised commercial arrangements. These projects are delivering 2,800 new jobs, \$3.4 billion in investment, and almost 1,800 megawatts of new clean power. Further, the Aldoga solar farm proposal is expected to be one of the largest in the world, and uses government land to attract investment into our planned carbon neutral future.

We have reformed the planning framework, including increasing support for renewable energy investments, introducing a State Wind Farm Code, call in decisions, and regional planning. If re-elected we will continue work to ensure the planning framework properly supports and enables renewable energy up-take in Queensland.

Our 'Powering Queensland's Future' sets out our clear vision for affordable, stable and balanced power for Queensland including our commitment to 50% renewable energy by 2030.

Our plan includes:

- a new, publicly owned electricity generator – CleanCo – that will deliver at least 1000MW of new renewable generation by 2025 with a focus on flexible dispatchable energy (this is in addition to the current Renewables 400 reverse action to deliver 400 MW, including 100MW of storage, by 2020)
- **\$151.6 million** of new investment for renewable energy generation, comprising \$97 million for solar schools, a \$50 million down payment for solar thermal, \$1 million to investigate sustainable energy solutions for the Daintree and \$3.6 million for decarbonising remote communities
- Continued support for hydro, including \$100 million for the Burdekin hydro project if the feasibility works stacks up, and a commitment to implement the findings of our state-wide hydro study.

For more detail see our 'Powering Queensland's Future' policy: [www.queenslandlabor.org/2017-state-election/campaign-policies/](http://www.queenslandlabor.org/2017-state-election/campaign-policies/)

**V. Excessive Tree Clearing** - *Protect our trees, wildlife and Reef by introducing strong legal protections against excessive tree clearing. Reform ineffective "offset" laws.*

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will:

- establish a flagship \$500 million Land Restoration Fund to directly support Queensland based land sector carbon projects and create new jobs and opportunities in this growing industry
- introduce legislation to protect remnant and high conservation value regrowth vegetation
- continue to provide flexibility to landholders through self-assessable codes as long as they are providing appropriate protections based on advice from the Queensland Herbarium
- continue to update and improve the mapping of protected vegetation
- release the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study (SLATS) on an annual basis within one month of receiving it from the Queensland Herbarium
- advocate for the adoption of a national vegetation mapping system, modelled on SLATS.

For more detail see our 'Saving Habitat' policy: [www.queenslandlabor.org/2017-state-election/campaign-policies/](http://www.queenslandlabor.org/2017-state-election/campaign-policies/)

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will also review the current biodiversity offsets framework.

**VI. Clean Up Queensland** – *Audit legal compliance of coal and gas projects. Protect groundwater and clear air. Introduce waste disposal levy. Ban environmental offenders from holding environmental licenses.*

The Palaszczuk Government has strong environmental credentials and has restored a number of environmental protections that were removed or weakened by the previous LNP government.

If re-elected we will deliver key environmental assessments of emerging resource precincts to understand the cumulative impacts and ensure appropriate management practices are applied to any new developments. These strategic assessments in consultation with local communities and key stakeholders will enhance our understanding of regional environmental values and ensure appropriate protections.

The Palaszczuk Government established an independent investigation into the interstate transportation of waste in August 2017 headed by former Supreme Court judge Peter Lyons. A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will give close consideration to any reforms recommended by the Lyons investigation.

**VII. Access to Justice** - *Ensure EDO Qld can continue to provide communities with the legal assistance they need to protect their environment by increased government funding to EDO Qld.*

We are pleased to restore funding to EDO Qld following our election in 2015, after the cuts of the Newman-Nicholls government.

We are committed to ongoing funding of the Environmental Defenders Office, through the triennial CLC process.

Statement from Minister Miles Friday, 24 November 2017:

"(T)he Palaszczuk Government recognises the valuable contribution of the EDO to public interest law in Queensland and we are proud to have restored funding to your organisation in this term of Government...

"A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will engage with the EDO ... to ensure certainty of funding for public interest environmental law in Queensland and discuss any areas of emergent need."

**DR STEVEN MILES MP**

**Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection**

**Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef**