SERVICES, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The LNP’s Plan to Deliver Jobs and Economic Growth
Welcome

Future proofing our economy will provide short and long term benefits for Queenslanders.

Queensland is stagnating under a Labor Government that is stuck in neutral - doing nothing is not working.

The greatest risk Queenslanders face is job insecurity and growing our services, science and technology sector is vitally important to ensure we diversify and strengthen our economy.

We have an ageing population that needs continued investment in health services to provide better health outcomes. There is no value in increasing health budgets if the services aren’t getting better.

With an increased focus on better disability services through the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), it is vital to ensure Queensland has the workforce capable of delivering better quality of life to Queenslanders living with a disability.

We need to make the right fit-for-the-future investment now in digital technologies to give people confidence.

Investing in science and technology means that we can help businesses grow, encourage start-ups to scale-up and create jobs and provide opportunities now and into the future. Supporting entrepreneurs shouldn’t be about picking winners or one good idea over another, it should be about creating the right policy settings for all Queenslanders to excel and be the masters of their own destiny.

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National Government will Build a Better Queensland. We have a plan to create jobs, support small business and provide better services for families and seniors.

An LNP Government will reduce the risk to our economic security by focusing on six drivers to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy. The six drivers are:

• Tourism  
• Agriculture  
• Resources  
• Construction and Manufacturing  
• Services, Science and Technology, and  
• Education.

Only by Building a Better Queensland – will we deliver the jobs needed to kick-start the economy and ensure Queenslanders benefit from that investment, economically, socially and by improving and sustaining our environment.

Tim NICHOLLS MP  Deb FRECKLINGTON MP

Tarnya SMITH MP  John-Paul LANGBROEK MP
The LNP’s Economic Plan

By focusing on six key drivers the LNP will create jobs while strengthening and diversifying the Queensland economy.

The LNP’s six drivers represent almost two-thirds of the Queensland economy¹ and more than seven out of every ten jobs in the state².

SERVICES, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

EDUCATION

TOURISM

AGRICULTURE

RESOURCES

CONSTRUCTION & MANUFACTURING

70% of all Queensland jobs

Service and knowledge industries

Queensland has thousands of smart and talented people with professional services that support the Queensland economy and can be exported all over the world. Demand for Australian service exports has increased by 55% over the past 10 years.

Queensland has incredible knowledge and expertise in areas like health services, medical research, mining equipment, technology and services and high-tech manufacturing. Queensland’s proximity to Asia means relatively low cost and fast travel to destinations such as China, India, Malaysia and Singapore. With video conferencing and smaller time zones, Queensland is uniquely placed to provide more services to Asia.

Professional services

Professional services are a major part of the Queensland economy. Our legal, financial, engineering and Information and Communications Technology firms have significant potential to further grow the Queensland economy through greater exports.

Many of our major legal, financial, engineering and Information and Communications Technology firms that have worked and gained experience on large infrastructure, resource and property projects in Queensland have world class expertise which is in demand, especially in Asia.

Targeted investment in science and technology that leads to real outcomes

If we are to position ourselves as a research and education powerhouse, we need to better align industry and societal issues with the scientific and technological solutions³.

In other words, for Queenslanders to benefit from the investment and increased focus on science and technology, there needs to be outcomes — whether that is creating jobs, making businesses more productive or ensuring better services are delivered.

We believe that if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it and Labor’s investment in innovation and technology has no goals and no targets.

The LNP had a five-year, Science and Innovation Action Plan but that has fallen by the wayside under Labor.

We say the importance of science and innovation to our state’s future is undeniable. Queensland is home to a strong base of research infrastructure and world class institutions. We are attracting some of the best and the brightest international researchers.

But we need a plan to develop that research and ensure Queenslanders benefit from the momentum built over a number of years.

¹ ABS Series 5220.0 – Australian National Accounts: State Accounts
² ABS Series 5295.0.55.003 – Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly
⁴ Towards a Queensland Community Services Jobs, Skills and Industry Strategy: Community Services Jobs Skills and Industry Strategy 2025 – Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
⁵ Queensland Futures Summit 2016 – Summary Report

Health

Over the coming years, Queensland is poised to be the health services industry leader. According to the Commonwealth’s Labor Market Information Portal Healthcare and Social Assistance, employment will grow by 14.9% to 2020 across Queensland³.

In Queensland, the health and community services sector is one of the biggest employers, with more than 12.2%. The industry is expected to continue to grow by 3.5% per annum up to 2018–19. The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme is estimated to require 13,000 new workers by 2019⁴.

With an ageing population and the ongoing roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, jobs growth in the health and community services area is expected to rise faster than we will be able to attract suitable workers – unless we have the right settings to meet future demand.

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The LNP’s Record

As we transition out of the mining construction boom, the key to growing the Queensland economy and creating jobs is an economic plan that focuses on strength through diversity.

The LNP has a strong record of focusing on the services, science and technology sector within the Queensland economy.

Services:

- We increased investment in disability services and were able to provide support for more people. In 2012, we inherited from the previous Labor Government the lowest spending (per capita) of any state on disability services. In 2012-13 the LNP Government supported 27,583 unique disability service clients — up 8.26 per cent from 2011-12. This was a net increase of approximately 2,000 clients. The following year in 2013-14 approximately 28,000 people were supported by specialist disability services, an increase of around 1.5 per cent.

- We have a proud record of boosting health and community care services in Queensland. It was the LNP that secured Queensland’s entry into the NDIS. Under the LNP funding for Disability Services increased 3.2 per cent from the 2013-14 budget of $1.420 billion to $1.465 billion in 2014-15. We also invested $50 million as part of the additional $868 million over the period to 2018-19 to support implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland.

- The elderly parent carer innovation trial saw organisations funded to deliver innovative housing solutions throughout Queensland – including Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Townsville, Nanango and Brisbane. Projects delivered under the LNP showcased a range of innovations and most importantly, the program delivered vital support to this cohort and preparing them for the NDIS.

- It was the LNP that boosted disability service access with an extra $5.5 million to fund respite for people with high needs disabilities aged 16 to 25 years and their families and carers, through more flexible arrangements. We also delivered the Parent Connect service to assist parents of newborns and children with a newly diagnosed disability to link with the services they need.

- Under the LNP we reopened maternity services in regional health services starting in Beaudesert and rolling out to other regional centres.

- Importantly our Mums and Bubs policy, rolled out between 2012 and 2014, meant more post-natal support services for new mums and their newborns were delivered across Queensland.

Science and Technology:

- In science and technology, our priority was better government – not more government – by ensuring that government is the enabler, unlocking our potential as an innovation state.

- Amongst our achievements, the LNP launched the Science and Innovation Action Plan, our plan to turn great ideas into great opportunities through creativity, productivity and knowledge. We also heavily invested in medical research, tropical health, the environment and early detection of dementia at the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research.

- This $9 million investment enabled real tangible health outcomes for Queenslanders. These outcomes included earlier diagnosis and better treatment options for those affected by dementia. Dementia sufferers and their families, directly benefited from the LNP’s investment and it also delivered savings to Queenslanders through a more efficient health system.

- We focused on rebuilding Queensland’s capability through industry partnerships and scientific leadership. This included providing $42 million for the establishment of the Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine over four years. The LNP’s investment helped build Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine campuses in Townsville, Cairns and the Torres Strait, which cemented Queensland and James Cook Universities place as a global hub of tropical research and intellectual leadership.

- The Australian Institute for Tropical Health and Medicine now targets existing and newly emerging pathogens, such as dengue fever, tuberculosis, rabies and the Hendra virus, that pose a health security risk to Queenslanders, particularly those living in or visiting the tropical north.

- As part of our goal to double food production by 2040, the LNP provided targeted investment for research into tropical pulses like legumes, chickpeas, lentils and beans. The research and investment underpinned Queensland’s position as a leading exporter of pulses to India and Asia.

ICT:

- The LNP released the Queensland Digital Economy Strategy and Action Plan in 2014, striving to make us more prosperous, advance our economy, create jobs of the future, attract investment and improve the lives of all Queenslanders.

- We promoted best use of open data – government data - allowing Queenslanders to develop innovative services and solutions, providing opportunities for an additional $25 billion a year to the Australian economy.

- We launched innovation programs, such as the free QTopo application, allowing everyone from town planners to our emergency services to use state data for strategic land evaluation.

- Our vision was to help businesses and residents reach their potential and make use of their government’s data to create jobs and improve their lives.
Labor Fails

In 2012, the LNP inherited from the previous Labor Government, in which Annastacia Palaszczuk was Disability Services Minister between 2009 and 2011, the lowest spending (per capita) of any State on disability services.

In two short years Labor has now run our hospital and health services into the ground. Across Queensland services are running massive deficits thanks to Labor mismanagement. This budget meltdown means services are cut and patients suffer with less support.

There has been no new investment in disability services meaning Queenslanders not in NDIS rollout sites will be forced to go without.

Under Labor the travel patient subsidy scheme was frozen for years, leaving sick Queenslanders out of pocket trying to access vital health services.

Queensland boasts a range of quality professional services that like many other industries are being hampered by increased taxes, charges and costs imposed on them by Labor.

Instead of allowing our professional services industry to flourish, they are being hit with rising costs of doing business – making it harder to grow.

Labor’s plan for innovation is all about trying to pick winners – choosing one ‘good idea’ over another. The best way to support this sector is by creating the right environment for success and that means government as the ‘enabler’, rather than the ‘doer’ - but Labor believes the Government controls innovation.

Queenslanders are missing out on the vital services they need because Labor has no idea how to manage an ICT project upgrade or rollout. It’s back to the bad old days under Labor, with no accountability and no strategic plan for managing government ICT systems in Queensland.

It was revealed in May 2016 that Labor were still using the LNP’s 2013 ICT strategy that was developed by Ian Walker and over six months later, that hadn’t changed.

Queenslanders haven’t forgotten that Labor were responsible for the worst ICT administrative failure in Australian history – a $125 million Health Payroll project that will end up costing around $1.2 billion.

We have seen them bungle the online rollout of NAPLAN testing meant to give our kids and parents better access to the tools they need to improve their education. The delay of NAPLAN online by at least a year is a broken promise by Kate Jones.

Queensland Health payroll still an issue six years on
Source: Sunshine Coast Daily 28/07/16

Queensland taxpayers have paid millions of dollars to fund YouTube stars
Source: Sunday Mail 04/12/16

Opinion: Advance Queensland program doesn’t approach innovation from the right direction
Source: The Courier Mail 14/08/15

NDIS rollout well behind schedule in North Queensland months after initial website issues
Source: Townsville Bulletin 05/12/16

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We have also seen them bungle a much needed program to ensure that our prisons system was being managed more effectively. This has doubled in cost and blown out by over six months in the first few months of the project. Simply put, they can’t even deliver a Breastscreen online booking system.

And we saw a leaked report warning them about a potential health payroll version two, with a $100 million upgrade to the system that ensures our firefighters, paramedics and corrective services staff are paid on time and accurately. The planned rollout is now two years late and has spent a third of the budget with very little to show for it.
LNP Plan

As part of our plan to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy, the LNP will focus on the services, science and technology sector to create jobs.

Without a strong economy, the Government does not have the funds it needs to provide the services that Queenslanders expect and to invest in our future through science and technology.

To Build a Better Queensland we are focused on diversifying the economy and growing the services sector. Our services, science and technology initiatives include:

Health
- Continuing to work with the Federal Government to ensure the smooth transition of Queenslanders to the NDIS.
- Granting the Queensland Brain Institute $5.5 million to complete an important world-leading dementia research initiative.
- Investing in education and training for the next generation of future health and community care professionals.
- Encouraging greater investment in health and community services from the non-government sector in Queensland.
- Investing in preventative health services to build stronger families.
- Boosting mental health research with $1 million to support the Sunshine Coast’s Thompson Institute under our mental health fund.

Professional Services
- Promoting professional services such as legal, financial, engineering and resources with the establishment of the Trade taskforce, focusing on growing export opportunities through Asian markets and promoting Queensland’s smart expertise.
- Developing regional METS (mining equipment, technology and services) hubs to export professional services and home grown expertise in Townsville (minerals), Mackay (coal) and Toowoomba (gas) through Trade and Investment Queensland, opening up international markets and supporting additional blue collar jobs in those regions.
- Working collaboratively with the various professional services sectors on regulatory reform, critical to ensuring they are not unnecessarily tied down by government.

Science and Research and Development
- Providing a pathway to success for our kids with $3 million in grants of up to $100,000 to create STEM academies in our local schools, allowing more opportunities for career development and engagement in science and technology from a young age. As part of this initiative, a $500,000 Best and Brightest Fund will provide assistance to state school students to help compete in interstate and international competitions promoting STEM projects and initiatives.
- Bringing science to the regions, showcasing our wonderful museum exhibits through a $2.5 million investment to mobilise our museum collections across the state.
- Protecting our natural environment with a $2 million investment in technology so that future generations can enjoy our natural surroundings, including $1.5 million for a ground-breaking QUT project to clean up crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef.
- Partnering with industry and research academies by establishing a $3 million virtual Agriculture Centre of Excellence to promote best practice, research and development that boasts productivity, job creation and the use of innovation and technology.
- Boosting local manufacturing in Wide Bay and North Queensland, by working with established businesses and research academies as part of a $3 million program that focuses on making homes and businesses more resilient in disaster prone communities.
- Outlining a vision to deliver an Australian-first, Academy of Sciences at South Bank, housing a state-of-the-art natural history museum, stand-alone Science Centre, cutting edge research and educational facilities and a world-class aquarium.
- Supporting start-ups and innovation incubators with a $2 million partnership that backs Queensland ideas and entrepreneurship.
- Boosting smart infrastructure with a $1.5 million co-investment fund for projects that create jobs and support our six economic drivers and businesses more resilient in disaster prone communities.
- Providing greater access to government services for regional Queenslanders, by getting the one-stop-shop project back on track and have dedicated QGOV mobile trucks in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Maryborough and Toowoomba regions, at a cost of $2.3 million.
- Maintaining Advance Queensland funding, with a focus on job creation, measuring outcomes and targeted investment.

Technology
- Improving WiFi access to promote our key tourism destinations to ensure we get more than our fair share of interstate and international tourists, with a $3 million investment to roll-out over 500 hot spots.
- Delivering the Brisbane Entertainment and Education Precinct (BEEP), by granting an exclusive mandate and priority development area for a new university campus, a health hub, a world-class public square and film and production studios in an under-utilised part of the Brisbane CBD.
- Appointing an Open Data expert panel:
  - to develop a whole-of-government Internet of Things (IoT) policy to look at utilising existing infrastructure and opening up more technology opportunities, and
  - to work with government departments to identify and share more and better quality government data on the Open Data Portal.
- Engaging technology ambassadors to learn from private sector ICT experience so government departments can better understand how technology can help solve service and policy issues.