



Steven Miles
DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

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Ms Ellie Smith
Queensland Projects Coordinator
Lock the Gate Alliance
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Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for providing your list of priority policies and for making a submission regarding future management of the Lake Eyre Basin.

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. I'm pleased to outline the ways in which the Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure the natural and cultural values of this area are protected while supporting economic recovery and creating jobs.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor Government has taken strong, sensible action to repair the damage done to Queensland's environmental protections and to support a thriving balance between the economic growth and environmental protections.

Queenslanders will not forget the LNP's disastrous record on the environment and threatened species. Under the previous LNP Government habitat loss quadrupled when they tore up Labor's vegetation management laws in 2013. The Palaszczuk Labor Government is proud to have reinstated sustainable vegetation management laws.

In December 2019, our government made a commitment to ensure the protection of streams and floodplains in the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin by returning the protections that existed in the Wild Rivers framework. We also commenced targeted stakeholder consultation on that basis. While that consultation commenced in 2019, it was postponed in February 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to ensuring that all stakeholder voices, including those of Traditional Owners, are heard in this policy process.

If re-elected, our government will establish a Lake Eyre Basin (Qld) Stakeholder Advisory Group to discuss the proposed framework and inform the development of a consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

The Advisory Group will:

- provide perspectives on the scope and options to be considered
- assist in identifying the costs and benefits of options being considered
- identify any risks or barriers to consultation and/or implementation of proposed options
- coordinate dissemination of information to their sector members.

Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group will include Traditional Owners, industry bodies, environment groups, local government, scientific experts and government departments.

Further, should the Government be returned we will release both the Independent Expert Scientific Panel report and CSIROs *Assessment of scientific knowledge of shale gas and shale oil potential impacts* report when the Stakeholder Advisory Group is established.

Queensland has a world-leading resources framework. It strikes the right balance between environmental safeguards, and jobs and investment in the resources industry. The Auditor-General's report into regulation of the CSG industry makes a range of recommendations about data collection and management and information sharing. All recommendations of the report were accepted and work will be undertaken between various government agencies and the Gas Fields Commission of Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has worked with stakeholders over the previous two terms to modernise our mining laws in a number of key ways:

- Financial assurance reforms
- Establishment of a rehabilitation commissioner
- Banning of Underground Coal Gasification and Uranium mining
- Reinstating community objection rights
- The Chain of Responsibility Act

The *Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Act 2018* (the Act) commenced on 1 April 2019. The Palaszczuk Labor Government introduced these laws to reduce the risk of taxpayers footing the bill for unrehabilitated mined land.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue to implement the mining rehabilitation reforms which have been a significant achievement of this Government. The petroleum and gas industry is currently already required to comply with conditions of environmental authorities (EA) which specify rehabilitation requirements and targets.

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

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

Yours sincerely



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