



## 2021 Assembly Policy Proposals

### 1. Emergency Funding Boost for Community Neighbourhood Centres:

#### Our Assembly Ask:

\$14.5M per year to provide a navigator style “Brief Intervention Support Worker” in each Community Neighbourhood Centre, until the Community Neighbourhood Centres Repositioning Strategy is completed & implemented. To be included in 2021/22 state budget.

We received in-principle support for this item from the Premier at our Maroonprint Election Assembly, and in the Deputy Premier’s pre-election letter. We strongly urge that the time to act on this emergency boost is now.

#### The Need:

We appreciate and recognise the work that Minister Enoch is beginning around enhancement and repositioning of Community Neighbourhood Centres as essential social infrastructure. This is the way to create a long term solution to the problems faced by the sector, and is in line with the QCA’s organising in this area.

However to be done well, this enhancement process will likely take up to 2 years. In the meantime there is a major increase in need right now. This need for support has been turbo-charged by the ending of Jobkeeper.

People are arriving at community centres for support and Centres are struggling to cope. We have stories of Community Neighbourhood Centres needing to close their doors, and other who have long lines of people that can not be helped.

This emergency funding boost we are proposing is the “first aid” type response that is needed while the long-term solution is implemented.

The emergency funding boost would allow the employment of a “Brief Intervention Support Worker” in each neighbourhood centre. These are navigator type roles that help connect people who arrive at the community centre with the right support service.

Without support such as this many community neighbourhood centres are at breaking point.

The positions are costed as 1 FTE at SCHADS Level 5.2 at each of 124 Community Neighbourhood Centres, plus superannuation, leave loading and a 15% management/admin fee.



## 2. Delivery of funding for workplace rights education of migrant communities:

### Our Assembly Ask:

\$250,000 per year for 4 years delivered through a collaboration between Multicultural Australia and QPASTT.

We thank the Premier for the clear support given to this item at our Maroonprint Election Assembly, and in the Deputy Premier's pre-election letter.

While the commitment was clear, an amount was not specified. We are now calling for this funding to be announced and delivered. This would include clarification of the amount.

### The Need:

We have heard many stories of serious workplace exploitation in CALD communities through our Listening Campaigns. This ranged from wage theft to workplace injuries such as chemical burns. We know that these workers are in even more precarious situations as a result of the pandemic. They are also subject to higher rates of sexual harassment.

Responding to these issues aligns strongly with the Government's priorities as demonstrated by wage theft legislation, labour hire licensing and the Premier's leadership on the National Women's Summit.

Our Alliance member organisations have committed to provide workplace rights information in relevant languages and develop training for community champions.

We are asking for financial support from the Queensland Government for the second stage in this strategy, to cover gaps in the ability of community organisations to support the reporting of instances of mistreatment and abuse.

Any education program must include ways to support people who are experiencing illegal or unlawful action. Without this element, "Soft" education is of limited value.

However, this is not in the existing capacity and resources of most community organisations and faith groups. We are therefore requesting funding to enable this additional support. This funding should be prioritised to Multicultural Australia and QPASTT as community organisations with demonstrated track record for involving CALD community leaders in design and leadership of similar initiatives.

The full amount proposed (\$250,000/year for 4 years) would provide for 2 pillars of this program:

a) 'Work Rights Education worker' to:

- Collate available resources on worker rights and entitlements.
- Publicise supports available to multicultural communities in relevant languages.
- Support individuals/ community groups to report instances of workplace exploitation or abuse (identification of issues, documentation, follow-up etc.)



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- Follow-up support to affected individuals (For example, referral to appropriate services for health/mental health, housing support etc.)
- b) Community organising to identify and train 100 multicultural community representatives over 4 years as 'Community Work Rights Champions'. Critically this would allow the identification and development of emerging leaders across these communities, which would ease the pressure positional leaders who feel overwhelmed.

### **3. Increased investment in just transition in the energy sector:**

#### Our Assembly Asks:

- a. \$2 billion investment by Government Owned Corporations in transmission and storage over two years to put Queensland on the path to being a renewable energy superpower.
- b. A transparent, fair and inclusive plan to support impacted workers, families and communities into the jobs and opportunities of the future.
- c. \$300 million additional funding to progress Renewable Energy Zones and Renewable Energy Industry Precincts to create thousands of good, secure and lasting jobs.

#### The Need:

Our Alliance prioritises bringing together the concerns our community has over the impacts of climate change and the over the need for real jobs that provide secure work. These issues need to be addressed together which will build confidence for further action.

We support the moves of the Palaszczuk Government towards a similar position.

Firstly, for the Queensland Government to meet its current energy and emissions targets, whilst maintaining public ownership of our electricity assets, and protecting workers and communities, there must be major state investment in storage capacity.

We are calling for a \$2 Billion investment in transmission and storage over the next two years.

The decisions to make this investment are urgent and should not be delayed. We urge that this investment should be made in the 2021/22 budget. The urgency is due to:

- Large scale storage including batteries and other technology will take significant lead-time to build.



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- Current interest rates mean that borrowing is currently affordable.
- A decision as early as possible is needed so that investment can flow through to actual outcomes that affect the lives of Queenslanders in positive ways, which will begin to relieve the concerns many people hold about the transition.

We also note that this proposed investment would create income-generating assets. This means that Queensland will not be downgraded by ratings agencies for borrowing towards this purpose.

Secondly, to give workers and communities certainty and confidence about the transition, there is a need for a transparent, fair and inclusive plan. Our communities will respond positively to a positive plan that involves them. They will continue to respond poorly to being kept in the dark.

Thirdly, we commend the work the Queensland Government has commenced on Renewable Energy Zones (REZs). This is the vital first step in creating the concentration of renewable energy that will generate clean manufacturing and industry.

We urge that the next steps that build on this should not be delayed. These next steps are essential to create thousands of good, secure and lasting jobs. These are the type of real jobs that Queensland workers, families and communities can rely on and build a life around.

Renewable Energy Zones and Renewable Energy Industry Precincts (REIPs) are the twin initiatives that need to work together to achieve these aims. One without the other will not succeed.

We are therefore calling for \$300 million additional funding to progress Renewable Energy Zones and Renewable Energy Industry Precincts (REIPs).

## Further Information

For further information from Queensland Community Alliance on any of the above policy proposals or the process of the 2021 Assembly please contact Devett Kennedy, Lead Organiser, on [devett@qldcommunityalliance.org](mailto:devett@qldcommunityalliance.org) or 0467 563 796.