



Sustainable Cities, Towns & Lifestyles

Queensland is a big state, but two-thirds of our population lives within 200km of the Brisbane CBD. When you trace it back, so many of our environmental problems start in our cities and towns, with unsustainable lifestyles that are costing the earth. But it doesn't have to be that way. Around Queensland - and across the globe - individuals, families, and communities are working together to reduce their environmental footprint and create clean, green cities and towns that deliver a better quality of life, while being kind to our environment and cutting climate pollution.

Suggested policy solutions for the next Queensland government:

Transport

- Advocate for strong national vehicle fuel efficiency standards, and provide state incentives to increase the uptake of zero emission vehicles including through government fleet targets, reduced registration fees, further support for charging infrastructure and access to special lanes.
- Increase investment in active and public transport and promote share services.

Waste management

- Implement policy actions to achieve the 2030 landfill reduction targets of 70-80% by setting a minimum milestone target of 50% reduction in waste to landfill by 2025 (across all sectors).
- Remove the waste levy exemption for local government.
- Ban Waste to Energy facilities for mixed wastes in Queensland.
- Prioritise organic waste reduction to landfill and support the introduction of FOGO (Food Organics/ Garden Organics) commercial and municipal collection services by Councils or other providers.
- Fund the promotion of waste avoidance in the community through home composting, community gardens and financial support for initiatives such as tool lending services and toy libraries.

Plastics

- Maintain progress on the Plastic Pollution Reduction Strategy through introduced policy measures to reduce single use plastics in the home, away from home, in agriculture, in business and industry and the marine environment
 - » Pass the proposed legislation of bans on plastic straws, cutlery, stirrers and plates by July 2021. Additionally, act to ban heavyweight plastic bags, single-use plastic cups, plastic barrier bags for fruit and vegetables, single-use plastic takeaway containers, and plastic lined coffee cups/ plastic coffee cup lids by July 2021⁷.
 - » Introduce mandatory recovery targets and clear labelling for packaging in Queensland (in the absence of mandated targets at a national level).
 - » Keep the Container Refund Scheme on track by requiring CoEX to publish an annual investment strategy based upon achieving a container return target of 85% by financial year starting July 2021.
 - » Make all Government sponsored or associated public events plastic-free.

Sustainable housing standards

- Strengthen sustainable building standards to improve energy efficiency and reduce water use in new and existing dwellings.

No backwards steps:

- Continue the successful cash for containers scheme.
- Maintain the ban on single-use plastic bags.
- Continue the waste levy and maintain related funding to environmental initiatives & grants programs.

⁷ With exemptions as per the Disability Advisory Council statements.