



Annastacia Palaszczuk

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

2020 POLICY DOCUMENT



Healthy Reef Healthy Environment Healthy Economy

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**WORKING TOGETHER FOR
QUEENSLAND**



Message from the Premier

Queensland needs a healthy economy and a healthy economy needs a healthy environment.

Protecting our environment creates jobs from the Cape to Coolangatta to Cameron's Corner; in nature-based tourism, caring for Country, and new industries like carbon farming.

Our Great Barrier Reef supports over 60,000 jobs and injects over \$6 billion into the Australian economy annually. And protecting it has always been a priority for my government.

Since 2015, we have allocated over \$400 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef and the jobs and industries that rely on it, which have been hard hit by the COVID-19 economic crisis.

Aligning with our Regional Economic Recovery Plans, we have provided almost \$34 million to support jobs, our tourism sector and local tradespeople in our Reef communities. This includes fee waivers for our marine tourism operators, funding new small-scale infrastructure in our National Parks, and the Reef Assist Program that is supporting almost 130 nature-based jobs.

Building on this strong platform, we will invest \$40 million into the Reef and hinterlands to accelerate water quality improvements, protect more areas, and improve access to our Great Barrier Reef region on land and sea.

We will also deliver more action on plastic pollution.

The LNP left our environmental protections in tatters, cut jobs, and cut the funding that is needed to keep our environment healthy and keep people in work.

Only a Labor Government will protect the Reef, protect our environment, and protect the jobs that depend on them.



**Annastacia
Palaszczuk**
PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND



Our Commitment

The Palaszczuk Government has a plan for economic recovery that delivers jobs and protects the environment.

A healthy economy needs a healthy environment, that is why a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will:



Invest \$40 million to protect the Great Barrier Reef and other World Heritage Areas creating more than 200 jobs



Ban more single-use plastics with public input



Our Plan for Queensland

We will invest \$40 million into our Reef, our World Heritage areas, our national parks, and our economic recovery with:

- \$10.1 million to upgrade tourism and visitor facilities in our World Heritage Areas and national parks
- \$3.9 million to develop two Reef Trails creating new tourism experiences and job opportunities through self-sail activities and glamping on Reef islands
- \$6 million into the Great Barrier Reef Island Arks project to acquire and protect some of the Reef's most valuable areas
- \$10 million for Reef Credits to accelerate water quality improvements
- \$10 million in the Reef Assist Program to support regional jobs and environmental projects in reef catchments.

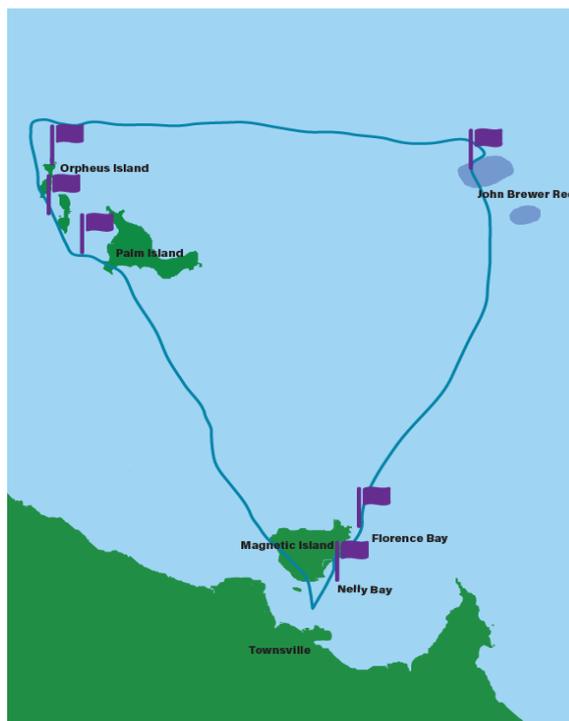
Investing in the Environment, Investing in Jobs

Queensland is home to some of the world’s most unique places and with limits on our ability to travel, there is no better time to explore our own backyard.

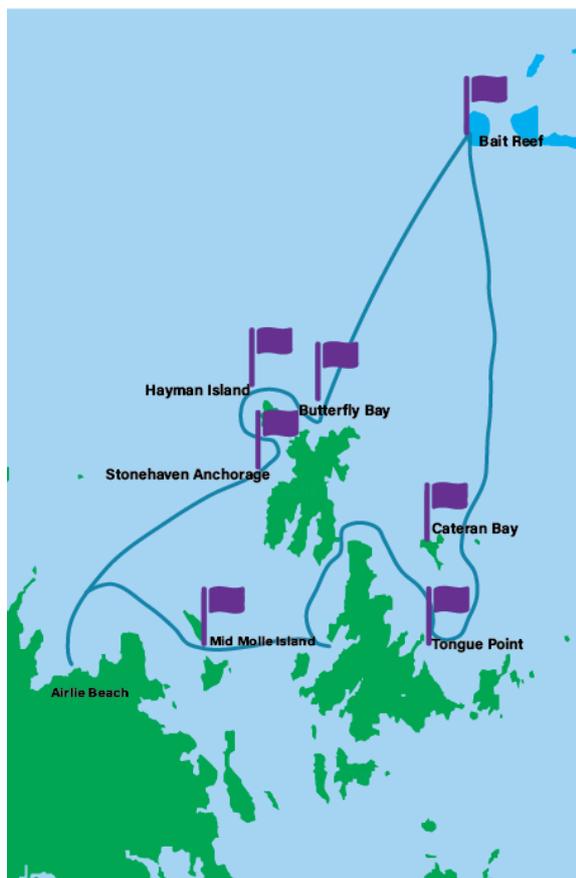
A recent report by the University of Queensland estimated that for every dollar spent on national park visitor management, \$6.30 is generated in economic benefits for Queensland.

We will invest \$3.9 million into a Reef Trails project to improve access to the Great Barrier Reef with 30 new public moorings and 20 new non-anchoring zones in Whitsunday and Townsville areas.

This aligns with our other economic recovery tourism investments such as delivering new marine tourism infrastructure in Cairns, meaning more Queenslanders will be able to enjoy our reef.



The \$6 million Great Barrier Reef Island Arks project will expand Queensland’s protected area estate and work with Traditional Owners to co-manage key ecological and cultural sites, and promote new ecotourism offerings. We will do this by acquiring new areas.



Investing in Nature

Investing \$10.1 million to upgrade facilities in our World Heritage Areas and national parks, will create economic recovery benefits for our regions, including over 40 jobs for builders, rangers, and tourism operators.

\$7.3 million will be used to upgrade and build new nature-based visitor experiences of:

- the next stage of the Ngaro Walking Track on Whitsunday Island
- campground and walking track upgrades at Conondale National Park.



In our World Heritage Areas, we will invest \$2.8 million to:

- develop Central Station as a cultural tourism centre with camping and bush tucker tour on K'gari (Fraser Island)
- develop a tourism hub and visitor centre in the Daintree National Park
- provide new cultural offerings in the Gondwana Rainforest with the Traditional Owners.

Over 2.3 billion containers returned through the Palaszczuk Government's container refund scheme

Healthy Reef, Healthy Economy

Our farmers and land managers are working very hard to change practices to improve water quality flowing onto the Great Barrier Reef and a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will support and accelerate this work.

Building on existing investments in the major projects in the Wet Tropics and Burdekin, a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will invest \$10 million into a Reef Credits program to incentivise land management activities.

Reef Credits use a science-based approach to quantify or 'credit' the amount of sediment and nutrients that are not lost onto the Reef due to land management activities.

The land manager is then paid for the credits they deliver.



More action on plastic pollution

When we asked Queenslanders whether we should ban plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates, almost 20,000 people responded with 94 per cent supporting the move.

The Palaszczuk Government responded by introducing a bill to enable single-use plastic items to be banned, starting with plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates as a first step.

Through the consultation, we also heard significant support for banning expanded polystyrene products such as takeaway cups, and containers. We will undertake further consultation to include polystyrene items in the ban.

This will build on our single-use light-weight plastic bags ban, and highly successful container refund scheme that has returned over \$232 million to charities, community organisations, and individuals, and created over 700 jobs across Queensland.



The Palaszczuk Government's Record

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

We have invested or committed over \$400 million to protect our Great Barrier Reef and the industries and jobs that rely on it, including:

- up to \$33 million for two major integrated projects working with NRM groups, farmers and specialists on new ways to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from the Wet Tropics and Burdekin
- fee relief for Great Barrier Reef marine tourism operators
- \$10 million Reef Assist Program supporting almost 130 nature-based tourism and land management jobs
- \$1.73 million for a Reef Islands Decarbonisation program to help tourism businesses identify ways to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs
- introducing our Reef Regulations, based on industry's own best management practice standards
- under our Reef 2050 plan, permanently banned the dumping of capital dredge spoil on the Great Barrier Reef.

Investing over \$250 million in our protected areas

Over \$400 million to protect the Reef

Queensland is home to some of the most spectacular and biodiverse areas in the world.

This is why we have invested over \$250 million to protect and improve access to our conservation areas. We have:

- delivered a new 10-year Queensland Protected Area Strategy 2020-2030 with an initial \$60 million down-payment.
- invested \$53 million through our Revitalising National Parks program creating around 135 jobs for local tradespeople and better access to nature-based experiences for visitors and tourism operators.
- introduced a new category of private protected area, the Special Wildlife Reserve, an Australian first, that aims to protect in perpetuity areas of exceptional natural and cultural values.
- increased our protected areas by over 1.2 million hectares.
- provided \$9 million over three years to continue the fight to eradicate yellow crazy ants from the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.
- increased fines for anyone caught deliberately feeding or disturbing a dingo on K'gari (Fraser Island).
- invested \$750,000 in visitor infrastructure in the Great Sandy National Park area including erecting new, fully fenced, camping areas on K'gari (Fraser Island).

Delivering 200 Indigenous Ranger jobs



We have also invested in First Nations people as the custodians and owners of this land by:

- increasing the number of Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers initially to 100, and doubling that amount to 200 under our new Protected Area Strategy creating jobs in regional communities while looking after Country
- providing funding to support traditional owners to engage in cool burning across Queensland
- implementing new Biodiscovery legislation to support First Nations People's traditional knowledge in scientific research.

Queensland is home to numerous iconic species such as the koala, and the Palaszczuk Government has worked hard to protect and care for them, including:

- in 2020, we introduced the strongest protections for koala habitat in South East Queensland ever seen in our state, with over 716,000 hectares now protected under a new planning framework
- invested over \$6 million over four years in wildlife hospitals in South-East Queensland.

We listened to community concerns about plastic pollution and waste and acted strongly by:

- banning single use light-weight plastic bags
- introducing legislation to ban single-use plastic items starting with plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery, and plates
- funding three 'Plastic Free Places' programs in Noosa, Townsville and Cairns
- introducing a new Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy to increase recycling
- reintroducing a waste levy to reduce landfill and interstate dumping.

We have also provided support for local councils and land owners through:

- delivering the \$12 million QCoast2100 program, helping coastal councils prepare for climate change and coastal hazards
- investing in applied science and new tools to help land managers and local governments better understand and prepare for climate change impacts.



Land Restoration Fund - Creating Jobs, Creating Change

In 2017, the Palaszczuk Government committed to establishing a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund (LRF) to invest in projects that create carbon credits and unlock other environmental, economic and social co-benefits.

We delivered on this commitment and are now investing in 19 projects across Queensland that will see around 1.9 million carbon credit units created on 1.8 million hectares by managing fire, beef cattle herds, planting trees, helping forests regrow, and not clearing.

The LRF will also pay for the co-benefits these projects will create such as more habitat for threatened wildlife, healthier soils and wetlands, and improving water quality entering the Great Barrier Reef.

We are also pricing in the social and cultural benefits carbon farming can unlock for First Nations people.

The Northern Aurukun Savanna Burning Project, located on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula is a 15-year, \$8.4 million collaboration between the Queensland Government and APN Cape York.

This project will pay for carbon credits created through traditional burning and carbon stored in dead organic material as well as supporting culture and community, while also caring for wetlands, coastal ecosystems, and threatened species.



The Newman-Frecklington Record

In 2012, the Newman-Frecklington LNP Government slashed and burnt its way through the Environment Department and climate programs:

- cut Environment Department staff by 33%, with at least 495 jobs lost
- cut 85 staff from the environmental regulator including 38 frontline compliance and assessment officers, many from the regions
- cut \$431 million from renewable energy, community sustainability, energy efficiency, and other climate programs
- cut \$188 million from the tourism budget and failed to deliver a single ecotourism project
- closed the Office of Clean Energy, the Office of Climate Change, and the Office of Waste Recovery, with almost all jobs lost
- trashed Labor's sensible vegetation protections resulting in tree clearing reaching almost 400,000 hectares per year before the legislation could be reinstated
- scrapped the waste levy making Queensland a dumping ground for other states
- risked the natural values of our beautiful, pristine national parks by opening them up to developers.

The Newman-Frecklington LNP government intended to dump over 4 million cubic meters of dredge spoil onto the Great Barrier Reef.

During the 2017 election, the Nicholls-Frecklington LNP planned to cut \$29 million of funding from the Community Sustainability Grants and climate change.

More recently, the Federal LNP in collusion with One Nation held a blatantly political Senate Inquiry to attack the expert science that underpins the Reef Regulations.

If elected, a Frecklington LNP government will:

- put the Reef at risk (again) and water down the Reef Regulations
- repeal our sensible tree clearing laws (again)
- stop work on climate change (again).

They will cut, sack, scrap and trash (again).

Cut \$431 million from renewables and climate programs

Cut Environment Department staff by 33% (495 jobs lost)





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