



Annastacia Palaszczuk

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

7 October 2020

Ms Ellen Roberts
National Director
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Dear Ms Roberts

Thank you for your letter of 29 September 2020 regarding our policy commitments in the 2020 Queensland election and your policy proposals.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has put Queensland on the road to recovery by making strong decisions on the border and starting to deliver our economic recovery plan. I'm pleased to outline the ways in which this plan will support small business, invest in Queensland's manufacturing industry, buy local, and bring forward new infrastructure.

1. Will you develop a plan for urgently transitioning our energy system to 100% renewable energy to provide certainty for government and business?

The Palaszczuk Government has entered into an agreement with CopperString to support a \$1.7 billion investment to open up new economy minerals and renewable energy in North Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government remains resolved to the commitment requested by Solar Citizens and other stakeholders at the last election to reach 50% renewable energy generation by 2030.

We are also committed to reaching zero net emissions by 2050 in line with recommendations made by the International Panel on Climate Change to limit the impacts of a changing climate.

Since we were elected in 2015, 42 large-scale renewable energy projects have launched in Queensland, representing more than \$8.0 billion in investment and 6500 construction jobs.

This is in contrast the previous LNP government who oversaw the development of not a single large-scale renewable project.

As well as large-scale renewable projects, our government has overseen the growth of small scale renewables. 1 in 3 Queensland households now has solar on their roof and our government is expanding solar to schools by installing more than 190,000 solar panels on school roof tops.

2. Will you support the roll out of 50,000 battery storage systems by 2025 with grants and no-interest loans?

As at the end of July 2020 there were 6,938 batteries connected to the Queensland grid.

At the 2017 state election the Palaszczuk Government committed to the rollout of a scheme that has now provided household batteries to 2750 families, and we are seeing around 300 batteries being installed per month.

A key component of the future of storage in this state will be the ability to locally manufacture batteries. That's why we have delivered \$3.1 million for a feasibility study into a battery manufacturing plant to be based in Townsville. Manufacturing batteries locally will be great for the environment, great for the renewables industry, provide local jobs and help lower the cost of this important technology.

As the price of these systems falls, we are shifting our attention to large-scale storage. The Palaszczuk Government has committed \$132 million towards the Kidston Pumped Hydro facility in North Queensland. This 250 MW project has the equivalent storage of approximately 25 000 household batteries.

We are also seeing a range of large-scale battery projects popping up across the state such as the 4 MW Tesla battery in Townsville and the 100 MW battery near Wandoan.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will work with our Government Owned Generators to explore opportunities for more public investment in large-scale storage.

3. Will you deliver three Renewable Energy Zones in the next term of government?

The Palaszczuk Government is investing \$145 million to deliver three renewable energy zones in North, Central and South West Queensland

With this support from the Palaszczuk Government, these zones will help connect new renewable energy to our power network, and attract industries wanting new energy to a series of connected commercial and industrial power hubs across the state.

We are also calling for the Federal Government to match our funding and give Queenslanders their fair share of the money they are investing across other parts of the country.

4. Will you invest in projects to kick-start renewable manufacturing and hydrogen production?

Our Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy is helping to facilitate private sector investment in large-scale, world class regionally based hydrogen.

This includes a \$15 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund (HIDF) launched in 2019 and extended by an additional \$10 million in 2020.

\$12.6 million has been allocated in Round 1 of this program and will result in more than \$38 million in private sector investment, demonstrating the capacity of co-investment to leverage funding and facilitate private sector renewable hydrogen investment. So far we've supported:

- \$1.8 million for Australian Gas Networks Limited to build a renewable hydrogen production facility and undertake a blending trial of up to 10 percent hydrogen into the Gladstone City gas distribution network
- \$900,000 for Jilrift Pty Limited to build a renewable hydrogen plant and demonstrate use of low-pressure hydride remote power systems at eco-camps within the Spicers Resorts Scenic Rim trail.
- \$5 million for Sun Metals Corporation for integration of renewable hydrogen into potential applications including remote area power, transport and heavy industry.
- \$4.9 million for University of Queensland to build a renewable hydrogen plant and refuelling facility to service inter-campus hydrogen buses between St Lucia and Gatton.

Currently, large-scale private sector investment interest is concentrated largely around Gladstone and Townsville, however renewable hydrogen opportunities are emerging across Queensland including Cape York, Barcaldine, Sunshine Coast, Southeast Queensland and the Darling Downs.

5. Will you maintain public ownership of Queensland's electricity system by mandating that the state-owned generators can own renewable energy and allocating sufficient funds for them to build, own and operate new generation?

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to maintaining public ownership of our generating assets. Contrast this with the former Newman-Frecklington Government who planned to sell and leased these assets to the private sector.

Through our government owned electricity generators, CleanCo, Stanwell and CS Energy we have supported the development of solar and wind projects across the state. This includes the first fully publicly owned renewable energy asset in this state since the last of the northern hydro projects were completed in 1999.

The Karara wind farm's 18 wind turbines will produce around 100MW of electricity into the grid, driving down power prices as a first step in our commitment to maintaining majority ownership of Queensland's electricity generation.

Building on this legacy, we have developed a \$500 million renewable energy fund to allow our government owned generators to further diversify their generation assets.

We have also invested in publicly owned renewable generation in some of the most remote parts of Queensland.

The Pomppuraaw and Doomadgee have been upgraded to allow solar energy to provide power into their local grids and we have announced Mapoon will receive some solar and battery storage during the 2021 dry season.

6. Will you install energy efficiency upgrades or solar panels on all of Queensland's more than 50,000 social homes.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving the liveability, energy efficiency, affordability and sustainability of public housing properties. In the construction, renovation and extension of public housing homes the Government works to ensure that sustainable design elements are implemented.

The Government has installed solar panels across 840 public housing properties across Cairns and Rockhampton as part of its Solar on Public Housing Trial, with tenants who opt in experiencing the benefit of reduced energy costs. The existence of a workable model to support the extension of this to support vulnerable metropolitan public housing tenants is continuing to be assessed.

The Government is also trialing a 200-kilowatt rooftop solar farm in Lockhart River to reduce the community's use of diesel power and improve affordability through the installation of 750 rooftop solar panels on Government buildings. This has delivered an annual solar benefit of \$100 per year paid to members of the Lockhart River community.

The lessons learned from these trials will be important to rolling out future public housing programs across the state.

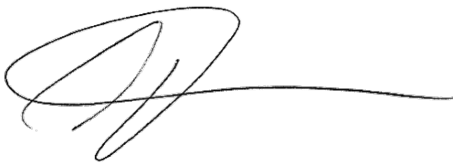
Further announcements

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

Further announcements will be made as the state election campaign continues and I would encourage you to share those with your members as they are released.

Should the Palaszczuk Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy