



Tim Mulherin

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C/15/7600
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Ms Claire O'Rourke

National Director

Solar Citizens

Via email: info@solarcitizens.org.au

Dear Ms O'Rourke

Thank you for your letter to the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Leader of the Opposition, concerning renewable energy. Ms Palaszczuk has asked me to respond on her behalf.

Unlike the LNP, which is only focussed on the next electoral cycle, the Queensland Labor Party accepts the scientific consensus on climate change and is committed to a long-term plan to support job-generating renewable energy industries in Queensland.

The LNP's ideological focus on four pillars risks leaving Queensland in the past as our major trading partners, including China and Japan, continue to shift towards renewable energy and away from fossil fuels.

Queensland Labor will implement a four-point plan to support renewable energy with the aspirational target of Queensland having one million solar roofs by 2020.

1. A Fair Price for Solar Fed Into the Grid

Labor will conduct a review to determine a fair price for families who export the solar power they produce at home into the grid. This review will be led by the independent Queensland Productivity Commission, which will be established by Labor, with input and advice from the independent Queensland Competition Authority. The terms of reference for this review will require that a fair price for solar must not have an unreasonable impact on network costs for non-solar users. The fair price for solar will be determined based on an assessment of public and consumer benefits, rather than on the requirements of large power companies. The setting of a fair price for solar will provide families with a reasonable price for the solar energy they export back to the grid while also factoring in the transmission and distribution network costs of solar.

2. No Discriminatory Solar Fees

The Queensland Productivity Commission review into the pricing of solar will consider appropriate fixed charges for solar energy producers and be based on consumer benefits – rather than the interests of power commitments.

3. Trial Solar Storage – The Way of the Future

Labor understand that the next technological advancement in renewable energy is likely to come in improvements to storage. Our \$40 million Business Development Fund will be open to Queensland companies to leverage financing for projects such as this. Our Advance

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Queensland



Queensland fund will provide research fellowships for mid-career academics and any research into battery technology would likely be viewed favourably for funding under this policy.

4. One Million Solar Rooftops

Labor has an aspirational target of Queensland having one million solar roofs by 2020. In government we will commence a renewable energy study for the Sunshine State including an independent and public inquiry into the adoption of a 50% renewable energy target by 2030. This study will also investigate the feasibility of policy measures to create a new export-oriented renewable energy economy based on value-added manufacturing, services, expertise and technology innovation.

5. Stand Up for Queensland Solar Jobs – Protect the Renewable Energy Target

Queensland Labor supports the current Renewable Energy Target and will put pressure on the Abbott Government to retain it and provide certainty for the renewable energy industry. A Labor Government will also trial a request for proposals for up to 40 megawatts of large-scale renewable energy generation in Queensland.

Under Labor's proposal, the government will only pay the generator for the difference between a feed-in tariff rate for large-scale renewable energy generation (contracted from the auction), and the prevailing wholesale price of electricity in the national electricity market. This policy will lower market risk for proponents, allowing them to access finance, generate investment and create jobs in renewable energy industries in Queensland.

In the ACT, their solar auction policy has attracted more than \$100 million in infrastructure investment supporting 165 construction jobs and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1.4 million tonnes over 20 years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Mullherin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Mullherin MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition