



# Dr Christian ROWAN MP

Member for **Moggill**

Shadow Minister for Communities

Shadow Minister for Disability Services & Seniors

Shadow Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Shadow Minister for the Arts

21 October 2020

Ms Michelle Moss  
Director Policy and Strategic Engagement  
Queenslanders with Disability Network Ltd (QDN)  
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Spring Hill QLD 4000

By Email: [mmoss@qdn.org.au](mailto:mmoss@qdn.org.au)

Dear Ms Moss

## Re: 2020 State Election Queenslanders with Disability Network Ltd Election Priorities

Thank you for taking the time to provide the Liberal National Party (LNP) with the Queenslanders with Disability Network Ltd (QDN) 2020 Queensland State Election Policy Platform. While the outcome of this election will determine who will lead Queensland through its first fixed four-year Parliamentary term, this next election is about Queensland's future, and who is best placed to guide this state through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century.

The LNP has a bold vision to make Queensland the economic powerhouse of Australia once again; the best place to get a job and get ahead. An LNP Government will implement our economic plan for a decade of secure jobs to get Queenslanders working again and lead Queensland out of this recession by stimulating the economy.

Unlike the Palaszczuk Labor Government, the LNP has a plan to build a stronger Queensland economy. Economic uncertainty has never been so widespread in Queensland. However, it should not be forgotten that Queensland had the nation's highest unemployment rate, most bankruptcies and lowest business confidence prior to COVID-19. By not delivering a comprehensive state budget, Labor is flying blind through the biggest economic crisis in almost a century.

The LNP's economic plan will get Queensland Working again.  
Our plan for a stronger economy and secure jobs is based on four foundations:

- Investing for growth
- Unleashing Queensland industry
- Supercharging the regions
- Securing our children's future

The LNP is the only party that has a plan to build a stronger economy and create a decade of secure jobs.

## **Employment**

Coronavirus has dealt Queensland the biggest economic blow in almost a century – greater than any fire, flood or cyclone we've ever seen. The economic recovery from a bushfire, flood or cyclone would have started within days, but Labor still has no plan, and no State Budget months after the coronavirus outbreak began. Queenslanders want a plan to stimulate the economy and provide a decade of secure jobs, and that's what the LNP will deliver.

To lead Queensland out of recession and create jobs, the LNP believes that a co-ordinated approach to economic reconstruction is needed. Accordingly, we will establish an Economic Recovery Agency to drive major stimulus projects across the state. In a similar way that a reconstruction authority takes charge in a disaster, the Economic Recovery Agency will lead Queensland's economic reconstruction.

The LNP's plan will deliver the New Bradfield Scheme and build new dams and roads to stimulate the economy. Our Economic Recovery Agency will be charged with spearheading Queensland's economic recovery.

The Economic Recovery Agency's first 100-day action plan will be to coordinate:

- Delivering the New Bradfield scheme
- Establishing the Queensland Dam Company to progress the Nullinga Dam, Urannah Dam, Rookwood Weir, Burdekin Falls Dam upgrade and Emu Swamp Dam
- Fixing Paradise Dam utilising international expert advice
- An immediate audit of stalled major projects and fast-tracking approvals across all government agencies
- Issuing the tender documents for the \$1 billion South-East Queensland congestion busting infrastructure stimulus package
- Fast-tracking approvals for the Second M1
- Delivering 4 new ICE rehab centres
- Promoting Queensland as the low tax state for investment because of our no new taxes policy
- Implementing our Queensland Investment Partnerships, to secure \$1 billion of private sector investment
- Reducing water prices for SunWater irrigators by almost 20 per cent
- Establishing our Industry Skills Council to ensure vocational training is meeting skills shortages
- Fast-tracking air-conditioning every state school classroom to support local tradie jobs

## **My Voice Matters**

A future LNP Government will continue to have a Minister for Disability Services that advocates for the needs of Queenslanders with a disability within the Queensland Parliament. An LNP Government will continually work with the disability sector towards the best possible outcome for people with a disability.

## **My Safety and Wellbeing Matters**

The LNP understands that safety and wellbeing is a major issue for people with a disability. Hence, the LNP supports a better COVID-19 and natural disaster preparedness and emergency planning to keep everyone safe.

Furthermore, the LNP would welcome the opportunity to discuss ways how an Expert Panel to assist the State Coroner to undertake regular systemic reviews of deaths of people with disability in care could be implemented should the LNP win the upcoming election.

## **My Housing Matters**

The LNP will focus on building a stronger economy because this will enable more investment in public housing; providing an economic future for families. When the LNP was last in Government, the public housing waiting list was reduced by 7,000.

Sadly, Labor has now added a staggering 9,067 Queenslanders to that list. With more than 25,000 people on the social housing waiting list before COVID-19, the shortage for public housing will have potentially got even worse since March this year.

The LNP will focus on building a stronger economy because this will enable more investment in public housing; providing an economic future for families.

The LNP has a bold plan to reduce land tax for new build-to-rent housing projects as part of a plan to create thousands of construction jobs and secure investment in Queensland should we win the next State election.

Under the LNP's new scheme, land tax would be slashed by 75 per cent and exemptions on international investor taxes would be provided on eligible build-to-rent projects. The plan is expected to secure \$2 billion worth of investment, create 4600 construction jobs and 4,000 new homes over the next ten years.

Reducing tax on build-to-rent projects is a pro-jobs policy that will mean more work for carpenters, electricians, plumbers and suppliers.

We will deliver the certainty needed to build and create jobs in these uncertain times.

## **My Digital Connection Matters**

A future LNP Government would welcome the opportunity to investigate solutions that deliver devices, data and build the digital skills of people with disability.

## **My Health Matters**

A future LNP Government would welcome the opportunity to discuss how a Statewide Disability Health Plan to improve the healthcare of people with disability could be designed and implemented.

## **Labor's Health Failures**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government promised better health services at the last state election, but all that has been delivered is a system in crisis. The public health system is at breaking point under Labor. Prior to COVID-19, ambulance ramping was at record levels, and the surgery wait list had blown out by 86% to almost 56,000 Queenslanders.

Labor has wasted millions on failed IT projects and renaming hospitals, instead of providing better patient care.

In 2019, Labor scrapped performance targets for emergency department performance, and surgery wait times.

Now hiding behind COVID-19, the Palaszczuk Labor Government has stopped publishing hospital waiting time data all together.

When it comes to better health services, Queenslanders can't trust Labor.

## **The Liberal National Party's Health Plan**

Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system and that's what the LNP will deliver.

The LNP will re-focus our public health system on patient outcomes and cutting waiting times for Queensland patients.

We will partner with the private sector to slash surgery waiting lists and ensure patients are seen within clinically recommended times.

Our hard-working nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics need more help on the frontline to improve patient care.

There is no point having empty beds in private hospitals when people are waiting for surgery.

Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health no matter where they live. The LNP will always put patient care first, that's our patient guarantee.

## **My Education and Employment Matters**

The LNP want people living with disabilities to be fully included in the community and to live their lives to the full, and participation in education and the workforce is an important aspect of that.

Hence, a future LNP Government will support opportunities to increase employment of people with disability in the public service and would welcome suggestions and ideas how this could be implemented should we win the next state election.

## **My Justice Matters**

A future LNP Government would welcome the opportunity to discuss with QDN ways in which systemic improvements can be implemented, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Queenslanders with disability.

## **My Transport Matters**

The LNP understands how important it is for people with a disability to be mobile. Hence, it was the LNP that led the charge against Labor's attempt to use the NDIS as cover for axing the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for 10,000 Queenslanders living with disabilities.

The LNP joined together with 13 charities and pressured the Palaszczuk Labor Government into reversing their decision to axe the Taxi Subsidy Scheme which was a significant victory for the 10,000 Queenslanders living with disability.

Furthermore, it was the LNP Member for Bundaberg who successfully lobbied the Queensland Government to alter the Queensland Disability Parking eligibility criteria to include legally blind residents, allowing them to obtain a permit for their carer's vehicle.

## **My NDIS Matters**

The LNP sees the portfolios of communities and disability services as being very closely aligned to each other. As previously stated, the LNP want people living with disability to be fully included in the community and to live their lives to the full. That means we have to ensure the NDIS is operating as it was intended.

The NDIS in Queensland has had bipartisan support since its inception, and the LNP will ensure there is greater cross-government co-operation between State and Federal Governments in order to ensure the NDIS can run as efficiently and effectively as possible. Under the Palaszczuk Labor Government, there has been a \$319.7 million underspend in administered funding for the NDIS (for 2018-19).

The LNP will work with the Morrison Federal Coalition Government to support people with disabilities. The LNP will not seek to politicise this issue as it is too important.

## **My Cost of Living Matters**

The LNP team understands that cost of living pressures are a significant concern for many Queenslanders, and in particular for those who live on a fixed or low income. Sadly, Labor's affinity with more and increased taxes is hitting those who rely on such incomes the hardest.

Since the Palaszczuk State Labor Government was elected, they have introduced nine new or increased taxes ripping \$4 billion from Queensland's economy. In its woefully inadequate Queensland budget update, the Palaszczuk State Labor Government failed to match the LNP's No New Tax Guarantee.

The LNP will put the brake on cost of living increases on water and electricity. If elected, the LNP will implement the findings from Labor's own Productivity Commission report into electricity pricing, to introduce retail competition into the regional electricity market. The LNP believes that competition will drive down prices, and that by giving households the opportunity to shop around, this can potentially save households around \$300 a year.

In a further measure to address cost of living pressures for Queensland motorists, the LNP has announced that if successful at the upcoming State election, every Queenslanders who owns a registered car will receive a \$300 Rego Rebate before Christmas. This will help to drive Queensland's economic recovery.

Furthermore, the LNP will introduce free off-peak travel for seniors including those with a disability who are able to access the CityTrain network across South East Queensland. This will be a significant saving for Queenslanders over 60 and will also encourage seniors to get out and about more – thereby reducing social isolation.

It follows the Brisbane City Council's successful introduction of free off-peak travel for seniors on the bus and CityCat network– which has seen an increase in off-peak travel by seniors of 30%.

We know that the council's initiative has been tremendously popular and we want to replicate that success because our seniors deserve it. Further, the Liberal National Party understands that by ensuring our public transport system is not only accessible, but affordable, this will also help in promoting the greater utilisation of our public transport network, and thereby further busting traffic congestion. Lastly, students including those with a disability starting full-time university and TAFE courses across Queensland will also be given \$500 vouchers to pay for bus or train fares – or petrol if they live in areas lacking public transport.

The LNP will help students because we know the costs of studying at university or TAFE can deter some young people from gaining the skills they need to get a secure job and brighter future.

## Conclusion

It should be acknowledged that the public balance sheet alone cannot rescue Queensland from trouble. The state will urgently need the support of the private sector to get the recovery going. This is the reason we have committed to a No New Tax Guarantee to encourage private sector investment.

It is our contention that Queenslanders want a plan to stimulate the economy and provide a decade of secure jobs – and that is what the LNP will deliver.

The Liberal National Party intends to make more commitments in the lead-up to the election on 31 October and will update you further as these are announced.

While the Palaszczuk Labor Government has cancelled this year's budget, making spending commitments more challenging, the LNP has already said that it will deliver a full Queensland State Budget within the first 100 days of forming government.

Yours sincerely



**Dr Christian A.C. Rowan MP**

State Member for Moggill

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