



**PUTTING**

**QUEENSLANDERS**

**FIRST**

**State Platform 2017**

# STATE PLATFORM 2017

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# Chapter 1

**Enduring**

**Labor Values**

## PREAMBLE

We acknowledge that Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the oldest continual cultural history in the world, dating back over 60,000 years, and we believe that their physical and spiritual connection to Country forms the foundation on which Labor's acknowledgement and respect is built.

Queensland holds a special place in the history of the Australian Labor Party. When striking shearers met under the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine in 1891, they ensured that our state would forever be linked to the genesis of our party. They cemented two core Labor values; a fair go for all, and standing up for each other. Labor was founded as a collective for the common good.

For more than 120 years since, Labor, in partnership with our great trade union movement, has continued to stand up for workers' rights and for a dignified life for all Queenslanders.

## OUR VALUES

- 1.1 We believe in the dignity of work, and that every member of our society has a fundamental right to work so that they can support themselves, their families and their dependents, and enjoy the quality of life they deserve. We believe in working together, a collective approach, to achieving the best for all Queenslanders.
- 1.2 We value every member of our society – no matter their location, race, ethnicity, sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, age, religion, ability or educational qualification. We believe in, and work to achieve, a society that supports equality, acceptance and inclusion and a society that shuns discrimination. We believe firmly in social justice.
- 1.3 We believe in a just and reconciled Queensland, where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are valued, respected and affirmed across all areas of society.

We believe in ending racism.

We believe that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should have the same life chances and choices as other Queenslanders and the length and quality of your life should not be determined by your racial background.

We believe in self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and working together in closing the gap in life expectancy, education, health and employment outcomes.

- 1.4 We will always stand up for fairness. Our party was founded on the important principle that everybody deserves a fair go in life.

We believe that a society's quality can be measured by how it treats its' most vulnerable people and that government has an important role to play in creating a more equal society, in which people are treated with respect and compassion. We believe in government that aims to lift people up to achieve the very best that they can, that appeals to the best characteristics of human kind.

- 1.5 We believe in building a society, not just an economy. We believe that government plays an important role in providing the economic framework, infrastructure and services our society needs to build a prosperous future. We believe government has a responsibility to ensure every Queenslander has the same opportunities to achieve their goals and maximise their potential, regardless of where they live or their life circumstances. We believe the public, through their government, should own and control vital assets and services. We believe no-one should be left behind.
- 1.6 We believe in a society where people care about each other, where we create and engage with each other through our communities. We believe community engagement enriches our lives. We believe in government that genuinely consults with and works to strengthen our engagement in local communities.
- 1.7 We believe in treating our natural environment with respect and that government policy should be directed at creating and maintaining a clean and healthy environment for the current generation and for generations to follow.
- 1.8 We celebrate Labor's historical and continuing link to country Queensland and are committed to ensuring rural and regional Queenslanders have access to a good education, well-paid and rewarding employment and access to affordable health care and other services, regardless of where they live.
- 1.9 We believe in the importance of key democratic principles including the primacy of Parliament, the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary.
- 1.10 We believe in executive government that is open, transparent and accountable to the people, and an independent electoral system founded on the basis of one vote, one value.
- 1.11 We believe in hope. Our hope for a better life for all, our hope for a more caring and compassionate society, our hope for a prosperous future for all is the motivation that ensures we act to bring about change.

## Chapter 2

**A Strong Economy:**

**creating jobs an**

**opportunities for all**

## LABOR VALUES

Labor believes that to achieve our vision of economic prosperity for all Queenslanders our economic policy must address the following key principles.

### Strong Public Finances

- 2.1 Labor supports an economically responsible and prudent approach to managing the Queensland Budget leading to a sustainable long-term fiscal position. Responsibly managing our state's finances will drive positive business sentiment, to deliver a stronger Queensland economy.
- 2.2 Labor will ensure Queensland is protected from both internal and external economic risks through the use of internationally proven risk-management policies. We support a combination of public and private efforts to grow the economy and will apply economic stimulus when circumstances require.
- 2.3 Labor is committed to long-term economic planning, especially in regional Queensland.

Having a long-term vision for the economic growth of our state will enable Queensland to deal with the economic cycles around major projects starting and ending.

### A Fair and Equitable Federal Funding Model

- 2.4 Labor supports Queensland receiving a fair and equitable share of federal revenues from the Australian Government to ensure the sustainability and growth of the Queensland economy.
- 2.5 We believe Queensland should play a leading role in national economic debate and policy development. We must not only have a fair and sustainable model of distribution of national resources to ensure growth in the economy but also recognise areas of competitive advantage our state possesses. This can be achieved only through a stronger partnership between the Queensland Government and the various other governments that make up the Australian Commonwealth.

### A Tax System that is Fair, Straightforward and Sustainable

- 2.6 Where it will benefit Queensland, the taxation system of Queensland must be simplified and rationalised with Commonwealth taxes to encourage growth in the economy.

Any changes must be fair, straightforward and sustainable. Simplifying the system in this way reduces red tape and makes Queensland a more commercially attractive and competitive place to do business.

### A Reduction in Household Budget Pressures

- 2.7 Labor recognises that government policies have an impact on household budgets.
- 2.8 Labor supports the development of clear strategies that address the causes and consequences of household budget pressures. Partnering with other governments, industry leaders, trade unions, charities and other stakeholders, a Labor Government will help reduce these relative costs to levels that are sustainable for Queensland households over the long term.



- 2.9 A Labor Government will make economic policy decisions that will protect our quality of life for future generations.

### **Encouraging and Attracting Investment**

- 2.10 Labor believes strong domestic and international investment in our state will encourage entrepreneurialism and enable all Queenslanders to benefit from a growing economy. Labor supports greater access to capital for investment, to encourage new ventures and enable small to medium sized business to grow and prosper. Labor also supports the growth of large businesses as these businesses contribute to our state's low unemployment and strong economic position and tourism.
- 2.11 Labor is committed to building a diverse economy that supports a broad range of industries, including manufacturing.
- 2.12 In recognition of its commitment to supporting the manufacturing industry and its importance in creating secure jobs and economic growth, Labor will create a ministerial portfolio for manufacturing.

### **Strategic Use of Public Resources to Stimulate and Encourage Growth**

- 2.13 Labor believes a targeted and focused approach to directing public resources toward growing the Queensland economy is essential to the long-term future of the state. Providing incentives and assistance to industry in Queensland, where necessary and where there is a clear competitive advantage, will ensure our industries are able to compete sustainably at national and international levels.

Labor rejects the use of outsourcing where it results in the undermining of job security, wages and conditions of public sector employment at state and local government levels and service delivery. Labor in government will ensure that industrial instruments reflect these values and will work with unions and employees to ensure outcomes that are consistent with Labor principles in this regard.

- 2.14 Labor in government will ensure that funding arrangements with local government will prioritise direct employment and reject the use of outsourcing where it undermines job security, wages and conditions of local government employees.
- 2.15 Labor will seek to maximise public sector employment, as opposed to outsourcing, in the provision of government services, particularly in regional Queensland.

### **A Strong Culture of Research and Innovation for New Products and Services**

- 2.16 Labor believes there is a role for government in helping to enable individuals and industry to pursue innovation that delivers new products and services for both Queenslanders and international markets. Labor supports the establishment of industries around new innovation and the services economy that will deliver the jobs of the future and diversify Queensland's economic base.

- 2.17 Labor will build an economy for Queensland that exports the products of our intelligence, creativity and business capabilities, not one based on the cheapest hourly rate for our labour. A Labor Government will foster links between science, business and industry to encourage innovation to promote commercial outcomes.

## **High Employment, Workforce Participation and Workforce Planning**

- 2.18 Labor believes in working towards full employment in Queensland, by providing opportunities for all Queenslanders who are able to participate in our economy and work towards reshoring work that has gone overseas.

Opportunities for employment will be generated only where there is an environment that stimulates growth in current and new competitive industries across the state.

- 2.19 Labor believes high employment and workforce participation is possible only when employers and employees collaborate for the common good. Respectful communication and compromise between employer and employee is the key to building profitable and sustainable businesses, the backbone of an economy that is globally competitive and growing. Labor has successfully facilitated this collaboration in the past and it is the only political party that can and will do this again.

- 2.20 Labor believes in ensuring Queenslanders receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, protection while at work, and the ability to access further skills for career development.

- 2.21 Labor supports workforce planning to identify potential areas of skills' shortages and demand, and that this planning be used to inform course and program development in training organisations connected to the relevant industry.

- 2.22 Labor understands that enabling groups within the community to participate fully in the workforce is of economic benefit to us all and supports initiatives and targets that will increase participation for women and other underrepresented or disadvantaged groups.

## **Employment Based Training and Apprenticeships**

- 2.23 Labor believes that government has a responsibility to use its spending power and market influence to ensure that training and the number of apprenticeship opportunities are enforced and adhered to. Government should be a leader in this respect which includes creating apprenticeship and training across Queensland.

Labor believes that government employment of apprentices delivers important outcomes for young people, particularly in the regions, and is an essential service for the purposes of trade based education and training.

- 2.24 Labor acknowledges that government has a critical role to play in the provision of employment-based training and apprenticeships opportunities for our youth and understands that providing these opportunities is an integral part of creating a strong economy.

- 2.25 In consultation with unions and industry, Labor will establish through its procurement policy mandatory quotas for apprentices and trainees on government funded work, and for those employers who wish to tender for government work, in order to create a skills base that meets the needs of the economy.

## **A Strong Corporate Governance Culture in Both the Public and Private Sector**

- 2.26 For Queensland to attract investment from both local and international companies, our state must be considered a safe and secure place to do business through a transparent and actively managed culture of strong corporate governance.

The perception of unnecessary red tape can constrain and discourage business growth, so a Labor Government will work to implement a clear risk-management framework to provide the most efficient solution to protect and grow Queensland.

- 2.27 Labor is committed to ensuring that government procurement is governed by the principles of probity, accountability and transparency and delivers both value for money for taxpayers and benefits for local communities.
- 2.28 Labor believes the appointment and promotion of individuals should be based on their merit, not on their political affiliation or connections. Labor encourages local candidates of merit to be appointed to regional boards.
- 2.29 Labor believes our economic future depends on our local and global environment being healthy and robust. Climate change is an increasingly urgent challenge, and it must be tackled head on. Labor commits to working with unions and industry to transition the economy to a sustainable, low carbon economy as quickly as possible.
- 2.30 Labor supports the responsible usage of our natural resources, including those impacted by agricultural, mining, tourism, manufacturing and other industries. We are committed to integrating environmentally sustainable development into economic decision making, and climate impacts, to ensure that all Queenslanders will share in the economy of the future.

## **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

Labor in government puts our principles and our beliefs into action.

- 2.31 Labor drives economic growth by providing incentives for investment that increases Queensland's economic advantage and by recognising the power of new initiatives to transform and diversify the way we do business.

The Smart State project propelled Queensland into the 21st Century by diversifying the economy into more shock-resistant knowledge based industries. Investments in science, research and innovation dramatically elevated Queensland's research profile and performance and brought into being several world-class research facilities, such as the:

- ▶ Tropical Sciences and Innovation Precinct (Townsville)
- ▶ Institute of Glycomics (Gold Coast)

- ▶ Ecosciences Precinct (Brisbane)
- ▶ Institute of Molecular Biosciences (Brisbane).

These investments combined with industry incentives saw research jobs more than double from 8500 to well over 18000, significant growth in knowledge-intensive exports, and increased business expenditure on research and development. For instance, the biotechnology industry grew from \$150 million in annual earnings each year in 2002 to well over \$1 billion each year less than a decade later. Under this scheme, Labor also secured Virgin Blue's headquarters in Queensland and significantly expanded our aviation industry.

- 2.32 Labor delivers state-building infrastructure for the next generation, also delivering hundreds and thousands of jobs in the process.

Labor's infrastructure program during the first decade of the 21st Century saw some of Queensland's most significant state-building projects completed. Everywhere you look across the state, Queenslanders are utilising the legacy of Labor's investment in infrastructure: The South-East Queensland Busway network, Gateway Bridge Duplication, Gold Coast Rapid Transit, Airport Link, Goodwill and Kurilpa pedestrian bridges, the Gallery of Modern Art, Cairns cruise ship terminal, Townsville Ring Road, the Whitsunday Coast Airport upgrade, and hundreds of other major projects.

At one point, Labor was building new hospitals or undertaking major hospital redevelopments in every major centre across the state. As a result, we now have the new Queensland Children's Hospital, Gold Coast University Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital emergency department extension, Mackay Base Hospital redevelopment, Rockhampton Hospital expansion, Bundaberg Hospital expansion, Toowoomba Hospital Birthing Centre, and many more – all delivered by Labor.

When Labor came to government in 1998 the unemployment rate was around 8%. Premier Peter Beattie committed to reducing this rate to under 5%. Labor's growth-generating policies successfully drove unemployment down to under 4% – something the Liberal National Party denied was possible. Even during tough times between 2009 and 2012, Labor helped the Queensland economy grow by 80,000 jobs, with the economy avoiding recession and recovering to growth of 4% by 2011-12 despite the Global Financial Crisis and the 2010-11 Summer of Natural Disasters. Under the subsequent Liberal National Party, Queensland's unemployment rate has risen significantly and our economic growth has slowed.

- 2.33 Labor uses our investment in the economy to drive down unemployment, maximise workplace participation and support fair work practices.

In the first decade of the 21st Century, Queensland's Labor Government prioritised the delivery of job creation programs and employment support to unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders. The 'Breaking the Unemployment Cycle' initiative assisted over 175 000 Queenslanders in the decade from 1998 and created over 124 000 job placements. An independent evaluation from Deloitte Access Economics found that the 'Skilling Queenslanders for Work' initiative helped a further 57 000 Queenslanders to gain more skills and increase their employability. Twelve months after receiving assistance through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, over two thirds of participants were in employment or further

training. These programs have since been cut by the Liberal National Party. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was delivering a greater return through increased tax receipts from employment growth than it cost to run, returning nearly \$8 for each \$1 invested and assisting 26 000 job seekers each year.

Through Labor’s ‘earning or learning’ reforms, more Queenslanders than ever either completed Year 12 or completed trade qualifications. Our investment in Trades Training Centres across the state and our introduction of Kindergarten and Prep saw Labor improve educational outcomes, and therefore the employability of Queenslanders, right from early childhood through to entry into the workforce and beyond.

- 2.34 Labor has delivered on Sustainable Fishing commitments to maximise economic value of fisheries while ensuring Queensland fish stocks are resilient and sustainable and a resource for all Queenslanders to share. This included the introduction of New Free Zones and the release of the Green Paper on Fisheries Management Reform.
- 2.35 Labor is looking after drought affected communities through landmark measures to reduce financial stress and improve financial sustainability, climate risk mitigation, farm succession planning and financial management, increased concessional loans, boosted support for targeting feral pests and the appointment of Wild Dog Commissioners, and measures particularly supporting young regional people by promoting renewal, innovation and development of future careers in agriculture.
- 2.36 Labor established the industry-led Rural Jobs and Skills Alliance which provides advice to government, industry and service providers on strategies to meet unique industry needs, and the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network to link workers to jobs in the primary industries sector.
- 2.37 Labor has boosted biosecurity investment to \$30.2 million, strengthening the incident preparedness and response capability of Queensland’s biosecurity systems, safeguarding our communities and protecting our environment from plant and animal pests and diseases, and invasive weeds and feral animals.
- 2.38 Labor’s appointment of the Chief Advisor – Queensland Government Procurement to guide and advise government agencies in best practice procurement management.

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 2.39 Labor believes in improving the lives of all Queenslanders by growing our state’s economy while providing the conditions that give each of us the opportunity to reach our full potential. Labor in Queensland believes government has a role to play in enabling both economic growth and opportunity for all.
- 2.40 Labor believes in building a society, not just an economy. Labor believes that government has a critical role to play in the provision of reliable and affordable essential services such as health, education, emergency services, water, public transport and electricity to the Queensland community. In instances where the government owns or operates services, assets or infrastructure, Labor commits to retaining these in public ownership during government and rejects privatisation of essential services in any form.

- 2.41 A Labor Government will be there for Queenslanders during good times and bad. Labor will be there to help grow jobs and facilitate appropriate investment in our economy, but we'll also be there to help when times are tough. Labor will provide support for those who are unemployed or facing disadvantage and help them get back on their feet.
- 2.42 Labor's vision is to build a strong, efficient and diverse Queensland economy that is capable of supporting full employment, delivering higher living standards and eliminating poverty.
- Labor will create the economic climate for people to transform their aspirations into reality.
- 2.43 Labor believes that government should own, on behalf of its people, important infrastructure and services to:
- ▶ secure government revenue and keep personal taxes fair
  - ▶ provide essential services
  - ▶ provide options to stimulate employment and economic growth.
- 2.44 Labor holds these values because we believe the market, left entirely to its own devices, cannot support full employment nor distribute wealth equitably to end economic disadvantage. Markets of themselves do not serve people – people serve people. If our economy is to reach its full potential and Queenslanders are to be supported during good times and bad, then there must be an ongoing role for government as the 'do-er' in the economy, not just the enabler.
- 2.45 Labor recognises the importance of maximising opportunities for local companies to compete for government business, as this strengthens local industry and secures jobs for local people. Labor believes that local content should be supported and will advance procurement policies that support Queensland jobs.
- 2.46 Labor believes employees should always have a choice about where they and their families live and work, including to work and live in mining communities in regional Queensland.
- 2.47 Labor recognises the contributions past and present made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to our strong economy. Labor believes in maximising opportunities for the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders in our state's future economic growth.
- 2.48 Labor commits to progressively increasing Indigenous training and employment opportunities in Closing the Gap initiatives, in its own departmental Indigenous recruitment policies and through incentives to encourage private sector Indigenous employment, including maximising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander training and employment opportunities.



## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 2.49 Labor is the party that creates jobs, not cuts them. In government, we do this by navigating the complex national and international economic environment, balancing competition, encouraging innovation and efficiency, promoting economic stability and supporting consumer protection through strong leadership and responsible economic management. A Labor Government will bring together all members of the community who are directly and indirectly involved in the economy, to build a stronger future for all Queenslanders.
- 2.50 Queensland in the 21st Century is a place vastly different from that of last century. Our competitive economic advantage now lies in our capacity to value-add and our access to key markets in the Asia-Pacific Century. The Labor Governments will focus on economic policies that share the economic benefits of the 21st century with all Queenslanders.
- 2.51 Labor will implement a new procurement strategy to provide a clear framework for delivering a new Queensland Government Procurement Policy (QPP) which will deliver consistent, transparent and sustainable procurement outcomes across Queensland, as well as improved local content outcomes, particularly in regional and remote communities.
- 2.52 Wherever public resources are required for new energy infrastructure, and particularly renewables, Labor will ensure that specifications include minimum requirements for local content and manufacturing.
- 2.53 Labor will ensure that government and local government procurement is transacted with transparency and accountability. Labor will focus on increased capability, capacity and probity for the government and local government, and its suppliers. It will ensure that not only does the state and local communities achieve value for money, but that our buying power is leveraged to achieve sustainable and social outcomes for all Queenslanders.
- 2.54 Labor will responsibly manage our revenue and expenditure to grow our budget while controlling our spending.
- Business and the wider community will be encouraged and assisted to apply the principles of energy efficiency and eco-efficiency for both economic and environmental reasons.
- Energy Queensland will be encouraged to facilitate the export of services related to renewable energy, energy efficiency and eco-efficiency alone and in collaboration with the private sector.
- 2.55 Labor will deliver additional infrastructure for Queensland. Labor will explore additional sources for the funding of infrastructure, such as encouraging the investment of Queensland superannuation in Queensland projects, while upholding return on investment requirements.
- Labor will help small business in all sectors achieve scale, share resources and enter new markets by encouraging cooperatives, mutuals, business networks and other ways of working together.

- 2.56 Labor will provide incentives for innovation. Labor recognises the digital revolution and the power of knowledge-intensive industries to grow our economy. We will continue to diversify our economic base and encourage growth industries such as high-end manufacturing, tropical expertise and tertiary education of overseas students. Through research and industry encouragement, Labor will continue to develop a knowledge-based economy that supports meaningful and sustainable job opportunities. Focus areas include medicine, engineering, science, agriculture, mining, construction, education and tourism.
- 2.57 Labor will progress work on a just transition to a low carbon sustainable economy, including:
- ▶ ensuring that current and proposed environmentally sustainable projects in affected sectors, and the jobs they create, are allowed to continue and proceed
  - ▶ making a plan to transition Queensland's economy to ensure workers and their families are not disadvantaged, including investigating financial and economic mechanisms to fund transition
  - ▶ ensuring public consultation with affected industries and unions for the process of transition, with a focus on communities highly reliant on the fossil fuel and resource industry
  - ▶ maintaining public ownership of the power industry as it transitions to new renewable technology, including owning and operating new renewable programs
  - ▶ building renewable energy infrastructure, for example, renewable power generation, grid connections to renewable resource regions
  - ▶ providing financial support to business and workers to transition to sustainable industries, including consideration of requirements needed for transitioning to renewable locally sourced and produced materials
  - ▶ introducing appropriate regulation to ensure that there are enforceable training standards and appropriate qualifications for workers in new and emerging sustainable industries
  - ▶ ensuring that all measures taken by the Queensland Government are consistent with the ALP Federal Platform, especially in regard to provision regarding transition. Advocating for regionally specific offices of an overarching federal department tasked with transition, with a priority of access for affected communities, including Central and Western Queensland workers
  - ▶ encouraging Energy Queensland or relevant public sector entities to develop and operate new publicly-owned renewable programs
  - ▶ ensuring that energy consumers, particularly low-income individuals, maintain access to affordable electricity and, limiting price rises as much as possible
  - ▶ ensuring consultation with affected industries and unions for the process of transition, including engagement of a nominated liaison advisor to ensure workers and the community are engaged in the relevant processes such as the establishment of the publicly-owned renewable energy entity.



- 2.58 Labor will enable and encourage the continued growth of the services economy including in the areas of agriculture, resources, construction, manufacturing, health, aged care, education, tourism, financial services and professional services. Labor will support small and medium-sized businesses whose services underpin the Queensland economy, while encouraging larger organisations in the financial and professional services nominated sectors to call Queensland home. Labor will continue to grow our existing economic strengths across industries including tourism, resources, manufacturing and agriculture. Labor will implement policies that help grow jobs and investment across all sectors of our economy.
- 2.59 Labor will work with small business owners and representatives to provide ongoing support and development of meaningful incentives that strengthen business capacity and resilience.
- Labor will continue to implement policies that put downward pressure on electricity prices for small business, that support secure and sustainable jobs growth and that control cost of living pressures on people and families in our community. All energy policies must support Queensland becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
- 2.60 Labor will maintain a strong public sector. Labor values and respects the Queensland public service and the vital contribution it makes to our state. Labor supports public sector staffing in line with service delivery requirements. Labor will grow public service jobs to enhance services for the people of Queensland.
- 2.61 Labor recognises that co-operatives, mutuals and member owned enterprises are an important alternative sector that allows participants to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations. Labor believes that the benefits of co-operatives include job creation, social inclusion and achieving positive environmental outcomes.
- In acknowledgement of this, Labor will:
- ▶ review existing legislation relevant to the operation of co-operatives and extensively consult with the sector in relation to the adoption of the Co-operatives National Law in Queensland;
  - ▶ develop and implement a program of support to encourage the establishment of new co-operatives and mutual enterprises;
  - ▶ ensure that the co-operative and mutuals sector is adequately represented in relevant government policy deliberations, and is actively promoted as a possible option for service delivery, particularly where community based initiatives are being considered or are appropriate;
  - ▶ ensure that continual improvement of advice, guidance and information is provided at all stages in the establishment, governance and regulation of co-operatives; and
  - ▶ ensure that the regulatory burden for small and medium sized co-operative and mutual enterprise aligns with the needs of these organisations and ensures they are not disadvantaged relative to companies of a similar size.
- 2.62 Labor will adopt a value supply chain approach to economic development, particularly in agriculture to support growth in the food industry, with a focus on identifying new and emerging opportunities and developing high-value, niche markets.

- 2.63 Labor will support employment, reduce economic disadvantage and maintain a social safety net. Labor will implement policies that are pro-jobs and reduce unemployment. Labor will prioritise skills development and assist Queenslanders who are unemployed or underemployed with proactive measures that help them to enter or re-enter the workplace.
- Labor recognises the importance of government employed tradespeople in maintaining the safety of the public, particularly in relation to disaster recovery and the maintenance of safe environments including schools and hospitals. Labor believes that government employed tradespeople provide essential safety services to Queenslanders and must be recognised as front line staff.
- 2.64 Labor will reinvigorate a government apprenticeship program for the direct employment of apprentices in building trades, particularly to assist in building regional capability through more qualified tradespeople to support the industry and the community.
- 2.65 Labor will ensure that all government construction work and projects, delivered by government agencies and/or private organisations, adhere to and comply with a minimum requirement of 10% of total value of the project being used to employ apprentices and provide training in accordance with the Queensland Government building and construction training policy.
- 2.66 Labor will work with the building and construction industry to implement a 10% training policy as part of its new procurement policy on all their projects.
- 2.67 Labor recognises gender equality improves national productivity and competitiveness, and will remove disincentives and, Labor will develop strategies that will encourage the entry, re-entry or advancement of women in the workplace.
- 2.68 Labor will support regional Queensland. Labor will implement policies that encourage economic growth and employment opportunities outside South-East Queensland, including in agriculture and tourism, and will prioritise regionally based employment and delivery across the public sector and Government Owned Corporations.
- 2.69 Labor acknowledges the significant cost of insurance for regional families. Labor will work with relevant state and territory governments, the insurance industry and the community to lower the cost of insurance in the regions.
- 2.70 The Coordinator-General will be required to review existing unnecessary 100% fly-in fly-out workforce arrangements in established mining communities, and implement conditions allowing the choice of workers to live with their families in regional communities.
- 2.71 Labor will implement its new procurement policy which highlights the importance of local procurement and purchasing to all government departments and agencies. Labor will implement a minimum mandated local content requirement for jobs and material on all projects.

2.72 Labor believes that government investment in Queensland’s infrastructure, including rail and rolling stock, should benefit local communities, businesses and create local jobs. Labor will use local businesses and workers to build and maintain all future infrastructure including rail and rolling stock.

2.73 Labor will ensure that all entities tendering for government work (including construction and/or the provision of goods and services) will need to demonstrate social obligation credentials and that such credentials will be considered and given weight when determining the successful tenderer. Such credentials will include but not be limited to past industrial, health and safety, quality standard, environmental, corporate governance and tax compliance record.

2.74 Queensland Labor will work with Federal Labor to support Australian and Queensland jobs in the Port of Gladstone.

The CSG/LNG industry will provide a massive economic benefit to the Queensland and the Australian economies.

Labor is committed to a minimum of 30% of CSG/LNG ships being crewed by Australians to ensure long-term employment and career opportunities for Australians.

2.75 Labor is committed to ensuring adequate gas is available to service demand from both domestic users and the state’s developing liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industry.

Labor will re-introduce an annual gas market review that includes modelling and analysis of a range of factors including gas demand, gas pricing, gas reserves, gas supply and transmission and an assessment of current market issues.

The annual review will inform any potential implementation of Prospective Gas Production Land Reserve (PGPLR) under Part 2A of the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 (Qld)*.

2.76 Labor’s vision is to see a successful and dynamic agriculture, fisheries, forestry sector that benefits all Queenslanders through education opportunities, jobs growth, and an economic dividend through trade, innovation and technology.

Labor acknowledges the need to have resilient, sustainable and productive agricultural businesses for the benefit of our communities in Queensland, including in regional and remote areas. Labor recognises the expanding global markets that the Queensland agricultural industry can access and in turn provide economic benefit to the state economy.

## Primary Production

2.77 Labor will support agriculture initiatives that will secure the future of the food and fibre sector through planning and capitalising on regional opportunities.

2.78 Labor recognises that agriculture is a uniquely placed strength of the Queensland economy, and with the increase in food demand globally there is ongoing prospects for growth in the sector.

Labor will advocate for the Federal Government to include Queensland’s agricultural products, including sugar, in any trade negotiations.

- 2.79 Labor will support trade opportunities for Queensland's world class food and fibre, marketed as clean, green, healthy and premium products. Labor will sponsor overseas trade missions with industry to assist producers and industry to expand into export markets, with a renewed focus on Asian markets.
- 2.80 Labor in government will work with agricultural industry associations, trade unions, research bodies, local government, education providers, and business to support a prosperous and productive agriculture sector. Labor recognises the potential for rural job opportunities and will work with industry to address labour issues in the sector.
- 2.81 Labor supports outback Queensland to diversify its economic base, particularly in tourism which can provide jobs throughout the dry season.
- 2.82 Labor will work with the agriculture sector to develop measures to manage climate change induced risks and producer preparedness to ensure the long-term advancement of the sector. Labor will promote drought readiness and sector resilience in its drought assistance program.
- 2.83 Labor will work with the agricultural sector to reduce its carbon footprint through greater energy productivity and encourage carbon storage to support the sector's transition to the new economy.
- 2.84 Labor will work with the agricultural sector to implement market-based mechanisms to support transitioning to more sustainable practices.
- 2.85 Labor will improve supply chains from Western Queensland by working with primary producers and industry representatives in improving conditions attached to meat production. Labor in government will focus on improving training, job opportunities and expanding the food production industry.

## **Biosecurity**

- 2.86 Labor recognises the unique biosecurity threats faced by Queensland and is committed to ensuring that our response capability is world's best practice.
- 2.87 Labor believes that a strong biosecurity system with appropriate capabilities is the building block for a strong and profitable agricultural sector and a healthy environment.
- 2.88 We recognise that biosecurity is a shared responsibility for governments at all levels, industry and the community and that it must also include co-ownership of biosecurity preparedness and responses.

## **Fisheries and Forestry**

- 2.89 Labor is committed to maximising the economic and social benefits that Queenslanders receive from the sustainable management of fisheries in Queensland.
- 2.90 Labor will ensure that forestry and quarry resources are scientifically and environmentally managed to produce a long term economic gain to Queenslanders.

## Drought

- 2.91 Labor will work with the agriculture sector to develop measures to manage climate change induced risks and producer preparedness to ensure the long-term advancement of the sector. Labor will promote drought readiness and sector resilience in its drought assistance program.
- 2.92 Labor will reinvigorate and augment support programs, including the DRAS program, with additional measures where required in light of ongoing drought conditions.
- 2.93 Labor will continue to support and fund additional Rural Financial Counselling Services further to the contribution of the Commonwealth.
- 2.94 Labor will develop a 10-year research and development blueprint for agriculture and food to enhance scientific collaboration within the state, ensure research is aligned with emerging opportunities and seek new and innovative ways to attract new funds.
- 2.95 Labor will maintain the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority, or its equivalent, as a delivery organisation for approved Queensland Government schemes of low interest loans, while also supporting schemes that provide a climate change and agricultural benefit.
- 2.96 Labor in conjunction with industry and trade unions, will consult on legislation or regulation that may adversely impact primary producers while in drought or during drought recovery.
- 2.97 Labor will develop further responses required to manage drought impacted farmers from the stresses of both drought and debt if conditions continue to worsen across the west of the state of Queensland.
- 2.98 Labor in government will seek to work with the Federal Government to make all possible responses and drought recovery programs available and easily assessable by primary producers.

## Building and Construction Industry

- 2.99 Labor will continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions to ensure that a national solution is implemented to address the issue of non-conforming and non-compliant and banned building products and materials, in particular asbestos-containing materials.

## Chapter 3

**Learning for Life:**

**investing in**

**our people**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING

## LABOR VALUES

- 3.1 Labor believes that all Queenslanders must have the opportunity to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of society.
- 3.2 Receiving quality education and training is a basic right and is critical to our people having the opportunity to participate fully in society. It is an investment in the worth and lifelong growth of our people and the creation of a civil society.
- 3.3 Labor believes that improving the educational and training outcomes of Queensland's people is a key contributor to the future economic growth that will generate secure employment.
- 3.4 Labor believes the provision of jobs for the future requires linking economic policy with complementary education and training policies.
- 3.5 Labor believes in supporting strong public providers of education, to ensure the delivery of quality education and training to all Queenslanders.
- 3.6 Labor recognises the distinctive educational disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and supports efforts to close the education and training gap that they experience through ongoing consultation with members of their communities.
- 3.7 Labor acknowledges the unique experiences, knowledge and perspectives of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and will work with Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators to ensure quality educational opportunities for all students in Queensland.
- 3.8 Labor believes in school and training environments which foster cultural awareness, acceptance and the valuing of difference among peoples.
- 3.9 Labor believes in cooperating within a federal framework in the crucial areas of education and training, without limiting the capacity of state-based policies to manage Queensland's unique challenges, especially in delivering effective programs to regional Queensland.
- 3.10 Labor believes in implementing effective strategies to fully address systemic barriers to access and opportunity to education and training, for all people in Queensland.
- 3.11 Labor will work in partnership with families, communities, employers and unions in providing life-long learning.
- 3.12 Labor believes in the right of workers to unionise and the right of relevant unions to be stakeholders in education and training. Labor values the facilitation roles of unions in industrial negotiations, their support of the rights of individual workers, and in maintaining workplace harmony and the delivery of workplace health and safety.
- 3.13 Labor believes that all Queenslanders have the right to a well-resourced, inclusive, secular public education system.



## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Labor acknowledges with pride its many achievements in improving the education and training provided to all Queenslanders, including:

- 3.14 Labor rejects for-profit corporatisation and commercialisation of public education.
- 3.15 Creating the Smart State Strategy that linked our school, vocational and higher education systems with the broadening of our economic base and the development of jobs in new and expanded knowledge-based industries, such as medical research, biotechnology, renewable energy and aviation.
- 3.16 Transforming the schooling system by introducing the Preparatory Year of learning, expanding kindergartens, funding the Flying Start Initiative to move Year 7 into secondary school from 2015 as well as preparing for a new Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance system from 2019.
- 3.17 Increasing the achievement and attendance levels of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland schools through funding dedicated intervention, support and extension programs dedicated intervention and support programs and supporting federal initiatives.
- 3.18 Implementing the Education and Training Reforms of the Future, to ensure that all young people remain in education and/or training until they turn 17 or have begun to earn an income.
- 3.19 Offering more school-based apprenticeships and traineeships than any other state.
- 3.20 Reducing class sizes across all year levels, particularly in the middle-years of Year 4 to Year 9, to enable teachers to provide more individualised attention to students.
- 3.21 Employing an extra 875 teachers above growth after the Liberal National Party axed positions while in government.
- 3.22 Creating Queensland Academies of Excellence - Year 10 to Year 12 - in Health Sciences, Creative Industries, and Science Mathematics and Technology.
- 3.23 Establishing the Autism Hub, an Australian first, focused on supporting teachers and parents to improve educational outcomes for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- 3.24 Establishing the Reading Centre to provide teachers and parents with support to improve student literacy.
- 3.25 Defining a core Australian Curriculum and revising accompanying curriculum resources to reduce teacher workload and to ease pressure on students in Queensland state schools.
- 3.26 Expanding training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and other groups of disadvantaged job seekers through the Working Queensland initiatives.



- 3.27 Supporting a comprehensive Technical and Further Education (TAFE) system on multiple sites throughout the state to provide entry level and advanced trade, technical and commercial training opportunities; and to support the government’s community service obligations in providing training support to marginalised groups in society who experience difficulty in participating in the workforce.

## LABOR BELIEFS

### Life-long Learning

- 3.28 Labor believes learning is a life-long process that:
- ▶ acknowledges the value of a knowledge-based society that provides opportunities for all Queenslanders to contribute to and share in their local, national and global economies, communities and environments and for personal growth
  - ▶ provides Queenslanders with the literacy, numeracy, technological skills and general knowledge that is necessary for, and enabling of, their future engagements in paid employment or self-employment
  - ▶ enables people to critically interrogate information and to participate in the social and cultural life of their communities
  - ▶ enables and encourages individuals to participate as responsible local, national and global citizens.

### Early and School-Based Education

- 3.29 Labor believes that early and school-based education is the foundation on which a strong society is built and is one of the most critical functions of government.
- 3.30 Labor believes that parents and carers have primary responsibility for the education and development of children in their care, and that early childhood education and care services providers and schools extend the abilities of all children.
- 3.31 Labor commits to ensuring appropriate accountability and transparency measures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific funding and initiatives.
- 3.32 Labor believes that the early years from birth to eight are critical in shaping the development and growth of an individual.
- 3.33 Labor will promote improved transparency by monitoring and reporting on specific funding allocations for Indigenous education initiatives.
- 3.34 Labor believes in the provision of free early learning for all Queenslanders across all service types, taking into account family choice and the needs of children in rural and remote areas. This requires an increase in investment in early learning. Labor will fund early childhood education and care in line with OECD best practice.
- 3.35 Labor believes that parents should have a choice as to which school they send their children to, including non-government schools, but government funding and policies need to ensure fairness in the opportunities available to all students.

- 3.36 Labor believes in providing a high quality early learning and care system that increases access to play-based and developmentally-appropriate learning experiences. Labor will invest in early childhood education and care research to improve outcomes.
- 3.37 Labor believes in building an education system focused on mutual respect, individual achievement and excellence to become a global leader that:
- ▶ provides opportunities for all students regardless of income, sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, regional location and background
  - ▶ is transparent, accountable and highly valued by parents, industry and the wider community
  - ▶ provides a platform that promotes student and staff safety at school and in on-line learning environments – free from discrimination and bullying
  - ▶ encourages students to work collaboratively and independently on tasks that are challenging, authentic and multidisciplinary, suited to their individual ability, progress, passions and learning styles
  - ▶ creates learning environments that value diversity and multiple perspectives to enable critical thinking
  - ▶ allows teachers to facilitate, guide and mentor students in skills for lifelong learning
  - ▶ provides broad educational experiences with a focus on the Australian curriculum, while ensuring that students have access to specialised subjects
  - ▶ values and fosters the professional growth of teachers.
- 3.38 Labor acknowledges that many factors affect individual educational performance. These include:
- ▶ family support and early childhood experiences
  - ▶ personal challenges and disruptions experienced in the lives of children, especially those in the care of the state
  - ▶ forms of disadvantage that can arise from factors including sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, health and disability status, regional location, socio-economic status, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and Indigeneity
  - ▶ school resourcing policies, including access to ICT
  - ▶ teacher professionalism and the access of teachers to ongoing professional development including mentoring
  - ▶ teacher workloads.
- 3.39 Labor believes it is the responsibility of parents and carers to decide if they wish their children to participate in religious education in school. Labor will ensure that children who do not opt in to religious instruction at school will continue with learning activities.

- 3.40 Labor supports school autonomy and local decision making, but the introduction of independent Public Schools by the former Newman Government has created a two-tiered education system, which has seen public schools competing against each other.

Labor notes the deal done by the Commonwealth and the former Newman Government to fund 250 independent Public Schools (IQPS) in Queensland by 2017.

Labor recommends that beyond this no further IPS be approved in Queensland. Labor also commits to a full review of the IPS program within the first 12 months of the next term of government.

- 3.41 Labor opposes corporal punishment in any Queensland school.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 3.42 Labor will strengthen a publicly funded secular and inclusive education system that provides equal access to and opportunity to participate in a high quality and challenging education for all, as a basic right.

- 3.43 Labor will build a school sector that is progressive, and values and encourages innovation in meeting the challenges of the future.

- 3.44 Labor commits to continuing to support the full implementation and funding of the Gonski funding model introduced by the previous Labor Federal Government.

Labor will enact a needs-based model of education that ensures equity of access to educational achievement for all children in Queensland. Labor will resource this model on principles consistent with the original recommendations of the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling (2011) and provide support loadings that target:

- ▶ students from low socio-economic backgrounds
- ▶ students with disabilities
- ▶ students from indigenous backgrounds
- ▶ students who need help with English; and
- ▶ schools disadvantaged by size and isolation.

- 3.45 Labor will develop funding and school management models that include appropriate monitoring that give individual schools the flexibility to access resources identified as necessary to service the educational needs of their students – in particular, the flexibility to provide safe environments for all students and the programs, facilities and staffing to assist in supporting students, depending on their needs.

- 3.46 Labor will ensure a fair and transparent state-wide staffing system and a rigorous process of principal selection that values diversity.

- 3.47 Labor will encourage parental engagement in education as fundamental to the future success of all school-age students.

- 3.48 Labor will provide a high quality early childhood curriculum that includes access to a play-based model of education in the early years of schooling.

- 3.49 Labor will ensure that schools are adequately resourced to support the teaching of Languages other than English, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Asian languages and ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures are included as part of the Queensland education system. Resourcing should focus on the recruitment of appropriately qualified teachers, recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge holders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may not be qualified teachers but are deemed culturally appropriate.
- 3.50 Labor will further develop consultative partnerships between students, teachers, parents, parent organisations and members of the wider community to support the development of young people to their highest potential.
- 3.51 Labor will ensure that civics and citizenship education occurs for all students at a secondary level.
- 3.52 Acknowledging the importance of optimum individual achievement of all students, Labor will recognise the need for specific programs and resources to support those students identified as being gifted and talented.
- 3.53 Labor will recognise the need for specific programs and resources to support those students identified as having learning needs.
- 3.54 Labor will ensure students occupying the middle ground of educational ability are supported in attaining their full potential.
- 3.55 Labor will ensure both government and non-government schools provide a curriculum and teaching programs that are consistent with federal and state educational objectives and meet the needs of the schools' students, families and broader communities.
- 3.56 Labor will ensure that programs and resources are available to cater for students whose abilities and circumstances do not fit within the mainstream or special schooling programs.
- 3.57 Labor recognises that some students are unable to maintain engagement with conventional classroom learning and will explore options to provide alternative educational programs.
- 3.58 Labor will invest in professional development, training and ongoing support for school principals, teachers and support staff so that they can support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning students and create more inclusive and supportive school environments.
- This work will seek to reduce discrimination, harassment, abuse and bullying against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning students, ensuring that they are able to achieve the best educational outcomes and ensuring that all students are able to understand and respect diversity.
- 3.59 Labor recognises that traineeships and apprenticeships are highly valuable alternative educational pathways for secondary school students and will continue to invest in quality vocational and educational programs.

- 3.60 Labor will ensure that changes and initiatives which affect students and teachers are developed and implemented under a governance model that includes representatives from the teaching profession, education sector, industry and wider school communities.
- 3.61 Labor will maintain a system of compulsory teacher registration to ensure that all Queensland students are taught by suitably qualified teachers.
- 3.62 Labor will ensure that teacher-training courses equip beginning teachers with the necessary curriculum knowledge, practical teaching skills and cultural/sociological understandings to enable them to confidently commence their professional careers.
- 3.63 Labor will ensure that beginning teachers will be provided with practical and ongoing structured support, which includes, but is not limited to mentoring access to professional development, coaching and professional support services. Labor supports clearly defined career pathways with commensurate remuneration and structural advancement that will attract and retain competent, committed and high-quality staff.
- 3.64 Labor values the critical role that teacher aides and other support staff play in the delivery and achievement of education outcomes for all Queensland schools.
- 3.65 Labor will ensure all education and support staff working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schools are appropriately qualified and have access to training which provides appropriate cultural understanding for the communities they work in.
- 3.66 Labor values the role of all education and support staff and recognises they all have an important place in the school community. Labor will ensure that support services are delivered in-house, rather than through outsourcing. Labor will not support individual contracts for teachers, principals and support staff and ensure they have the opportunity to gain permanent employment.
- 3.67 Labor will ensure school cleaners always operate in a safe workplace by providing appropriate occupational health and safety training through school cleaner inductions and an adequate injury management system.
- 3.68 Labor will recognise formally the skills and qualifications teacher aides bring to their profession, along with those acquired during their employment with Education Queensland. This will reflect the evolving and diverse role of teacher aides and the important part they play in improving outcomes for students.
- 3.69 Labor will staff schools with professionals who work in a collegiate framework that supports both the compatible goals of student education and continuous staff support and development.
- 3.70 Labor will build communities in which schools have opportunities to develop as broader community assets by becoming hubs that provide a range of affordable child - and education-focussed community services such as:
  - ▶ early learning and care
  - ▶ child, maternal and community health services
  - ▶ other services that support community education

- ▶ outside school hours care and vacation care.

- 3.71 Labor believes that children who have access to appropriate, nutritious food are more likely to achieve better educational outcomes than those who do not. A Labor Government will investigate the implementation of a breakfast and/or lunch program to be introduced into government schools, providing healthy food appropriate to their local communities.
- 3.72 Labor will improve the interface between intensive family support services and early childhood development.
- 3.73 Labor will develop a workforce action plan to enhance the qualifications, skills and capabilities of the early childhood education and care services workforce. Labor acknowledges this is a highly feminised workforce and, as a result, their pay is not reflective of the important work they do.
- Labor supports the Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) being pursued by early childhood educators. Labor will write a submission to the ERO in support of professional pay for early childhood educators.
- 3.74 Labor will develop an effective and efficient framework to identify high performing teachers giving excellent teachers the opportunity for promotion without leaving the classroom.
- 3.75 Labor will revitalise teacher training to make sure graduates are well equipped for the classroom.
- 3.76 Labor will identify opportunities for administration officers in state schools to be recognised for the vital role they play in education.
- 3.77 Labor will provide more jobs for guidance officers to support students at school.
- 3.78 Labor will ensure that all schools have the necessary resourcing to effectively deliver digital technology curriculum elements, such as STEM, coding and robotics, through additional IT and system supports.
- 3.79 Labor will continue to support the employment of secular youth workers in schools with a view to providing quality, trained non-faith-based services to all state school students.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### LABOR BELIEFS

- 3.80 Labor believes that national productivity and individual economic success both depend upon vocational education and training (VET) systems. These systems:
- ▶ provide entry level skills to allow people to enter the workforce
  - ▶ increase workforce participation, by providing opportunities for unemployed and under-employed people, and those returning from breaks in their career, to gain or enhance their employment
  - ▶ provide leadership in provision of Occupational Workplace Health and Safety Training



- ▶ support business and workers with retraining and up-skilling in times of change in the labour market, arising from structural changes in the economy and technological and other developments
  - ▶ recognise, where appropriate, the benefits of a market-based training system, but acknowledge the need for an associated focus by government on quality, consumer protection and areas of market failure
  - ▶ recognise the important links between the VET system and higher education through articulation, bridging programs and joint programs
  - ▶ act inclusively to ensure that marginalised groups in the community have access to VET
  - ▶ recognise the need for an equitable fee structure
  - ▶ is regulated by a public organisation to enhance quality.
- 3.81 Labor commits to restoring basic literacy, numeracy and technology classes as an integral part of the TAFE system (free of charge or at minimal cost). These classes have enabled educationally-disadvantaged adults to fully participate in our society and to have access to vocational pathways.
- 3.82 Labor believes the quality of the VET system is dependent on having a suitably qualified and experienced teaching staff.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 3.83 A flexible and effective VET system includes institutional training, structured on-the-job training and work experience. It is therefore a partnership between government, training providers, employers, trade unions, trainees and apprentices.
- 3.84 Labor will support a continuing strong publicly funded TAFE system that enables the government to take a leadership role in VET consistent with its obligations to local, state and national economies and meeting the needs of Queenslanders.
- 3.85 Labor will provide leadership in the provision of pre-vocational experience and training to secondary school students.
- 3.86 Labor will ensure that apprentices and trainees are paid fair wages and have access to affordable training.
- 3.87 Labor will provide opportunities for Queenslanders to obtain the entry-level qualifications they need to enter the workforce.
- 3.88 Labor will ensure the highest levels of training outcomes, particularly for high risk industries (such as electrical) where community and worker safety is of paramount importance. To achieve this, Labor commits to ensuring that licencing in high risk occupational trades will be overseen, and where appropriate assessed, by institutions such as industry regulators that are independent of training providers and who are responsible for industry standards and safety.
- 3.89 Labor will reinstate Skilling Queenslanders for Work to support Queenslanders entry into the workforce.
- 3.90 Labor will restore TAFE as Queensland’s premier public provider of VET.

- 3.91 Labor will establish an independent statutory body to provide advice to government on skills demand and long-term workforce planning.
- 3.92 Labor will return control of the state's training assets to the Department of Education and Training.
- 3.93 Labor will create an independent Training Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints about the quality of training.
- 3.94 Labor will provide skilling opportunities to underpin jobs in new, emerging or changed economic and social circumstances.
- 3.95 Consistent with its community service obligations, Labor will provide a second chance at education and training for people who have been out of the workforce, for example, people returning to the workforce after time out for family responsibilities, workers made redundant through structural and technological changes in the workforce, and people whose personal circumstances meant they require access to training to obtain employment.
- 3.96 Labor will work with disadvantaged and marginalised groups across the state to ensure they can access training opportunities, course structures and content appropriate to their needs.
- 3.97 Labor recognises the distinctive circumstances of regional Queenslanders and will ensure that access to training, including on-line learning, is not limited unnecessarily by location. Labor believes that training provision should take into account the economic, commercial, industrial and socio-cultural needs of each region.
- 3.98 Labor recognises the need for an equitable fee structure within the VET system to ensure that all Queenslanders have access to high quality training which meets personal needs and provides opportunities to secure meaningful employment.

## HIGHER EDUCATION

### LABOR BELIEFS

- 3.99 Labor supports a higher education sector that:
- ▶ provides globally acknowledged programs of excellence for undergraduate and postgraduate students, including research centres
  - ▶ attracts students and professional staff who want to engage in world's best courses and research
  - ▶ contains centres of research excellence that are capable of developing knowledge, products and processes of global significance
  - ▶ provides access, and eliminates systemic blockages, to the participation of disadvantaged groups in the community, especially those whose participation may be limited because they have inadequate financial support, or are from rural, regional or remote areas
  - ▶ is regulated by a publicly funded organisation, currently the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.



- 3.100 Labor believes that student representative organisations (unions, guilds and SRCs) are an important component in both higher education institutions and in civil society more broadly.
- 3.101 Labor strongly supports undergraduate student, postgraduate student and staff involvement in the management of their university communities and in university decision making processes. As such Labor supports elected undergraduate student, postgraduate students and staff representation at all levels of university decision making.
- 3.102 Labor commits to re-establishing the importance of a training contract and will ensure the parties to the contract continue to meet their employment and training commitments until the contract is cancelled by the relevant state authority, following fair procedures.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 3.103 Labor will develop partnerships with the sector that provide access to the human, financial, natural and infrastructural resources of government to enhance the capacity of those institutions to develop courses, undertake research and promote the work of those institutions.
- 3.104 Labor will engage with the higher education sector to develop partnerships and enable participation of marginalised groups in Queensland, for example, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, rural and remote communities and culturally and linguistically diverse groups.
- 3.105 Labor will work with the higher education sector to boost online-learning opportunities for Queenslanders to undertake further education and lifelong learning.
- 3.106 Labor will support the development of partnerships between higher education and employer groups.
- 3.107 Labor will support Queensland secondary schools in building partnerships with higher education institutions.

## Chapter 4

**Industrial Relations:**

**making our**

**workplaces safe,**

**productive and fair**

## LABOR VALUES

- 4.1 Labor’s industrial relations policy is built on the values of a fair go for all working Queenslanders and for employers. Labor believes in an industrial relations environment that relies on genuine consultation, cooperation and mutual respect between all parties.
- 4.2 Labor believes in collective participation. The best way to ensure collective participation is to recognise, support and encourage the right of workers to organise through unions. Through unions working Queenslanders have achieved fair standards in health and safety, in remuneration, and in conditions of employment. Unions are the best way to maintain and advance those standards.
- 4.3 Labor believes that a fair industrial relations system relies on independent tribunals and on an independent judicial system.
- 4.4 Labor believes in workplaces free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 4.5 Labor has a long and proud history of advancements for workers through progressive industrial relations policies.
- 4.6 Labor introduced an impartial Court of Industrial Arbitration in 1916, which recognised unions, introduced the eight-hour work day, ruled on workers’ overtime payments and holidays, ruled on employment disputes, and made general rulings and awards regarding the wages and employment conditions of workers and enforced entitlements (*Industrial Arbitration Act 1916 (Qld)*, *Trade Union Act 1915 (Qld)* and *Wages Act 1918 (Qld)*).
- 4.7 Labor introduced a no-fault workers’ compensation system that ensured support for workers who suffer an injury related to their employment, including industrial diseases and journey claims (*Workers’ Compensation Act 1916 (Qld)*).
- 4.8 Labor introduced legislation to deal with the issue of unemployment through relief work and unemployment insurance (*Unemployed Workers Act 1919 (Qld)*).
- 4.9 Labor introduced legislation providing rights and entitlements for seasonal workers such as those in the sugar industry, including unfair dismissal and continuity of employment.
- 4.10 Labor introduced legislation to provide suitable accommodation for workers in the pastoral industry.
- 4.11 Labor introduced portable long-service leave and superannuation for casual workers in the building and construction and contract cleaning sectors.
- 4.12 More recently, Labor Governments have introduced and maintained fair and balanced legislation such as the *Industrial Relations Act 1999 (Qld)*, the *Workers’ Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 (Qld)* and the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)*. These laws have ensured at least minimum protections for Queensland workers.

- 4.13 Labor introduced the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)*, which protects workers against discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, age, race, disability and other protected attributes.
- 4.14 After a comprehensive review of the state's industrial relations laws and tribunals, Labor is restoring a fair and independent industrial relations system, including addressing legislation passed by the former LNP State Government that attacked workers' rights and entitlements.
- 4.15 Labor reinstated Labour Day to its historic place in May.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 4.16 Queensland Labor's policy on industrial relations is founded on the following beliefs.
- 4.17 In 2015, Labor passed the *Industrial Relations (Restoring Fairness) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015 (Qld)* through the Queensland Parliament, has issued a formal commitment to union encouragement for public sector employees and has moved to secure funding for TAFE; with legislation also soon to be enacted in support of enhanced workplace health and safety and workers compensation rights, FIFO and other long distance community work practices and restoring the Labour Day public holiday to May from 2016. A collaborative process facilitates review of the state *Industrial Relations Act 2016 (Qld)* and Industrial Tribunals to restore workers' rights. Labor has also spoken out in support of the retention of workers' penalty rates. These actions deliver on key election promises.
- 4.18 The existence of a strong, representative and responsible union movement is essential to the achievement of an efficient, just and equitable industrial relations system.
- 4.19 ILO standards, such as are reflected in the International Labour Organisation conventions, provide rights and responsibilities for registered unions.

Labor will ensure that primacy is given the conventional system of registered unions and as such, unregistered industrial associations which evade regulation and compete with legally registered unions will not be supported.

Labor notes that legislative provisions regarding industrial associations exist solely to allow time for unregistered associations to develop into registered unions in employment areas where no other union coverage exists.

Labor will ensure that these legislative provisions are not misused to promote the evasion of regulation or competition between unregistered associations and registered trade unions.

- 4.20 Every employee has a right to a "fair go" at work and to be informed of the right to access Union representation.
- 4.21 Workers who dutifully provide their mental and physical labour to their employer should be able to expect job security from their employer.
- 4.22 Every worker is entitled to a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. Further, wages and employment conditions need to be underpinned by relevant and enforceable industrial instruments and legislation.

- 4.23 All industrial parties involved in the employment relationship should be able to resolve disputes before an impartial tribunal.
- 4.24 All workers have the right to be paid the same transparent remuneration for undertaking the same work.
- 4.25 All workers have the right to bargain collectively, to be represented by their union, and to have access to union support at their workplace, and workers and employers have the right to negotiate any matter as part of enterprise bargaining.
- 4.26 Workers and employers have a mutual interest in working collaboratively to ensure the delivery of high-quality services and products in an efficient and effective manner.
- 4.27 Workers and employers will enhance productivity in the state by enhancing the skills and capabilities of workers, developing the leadership and management skills of employers, and adopting innovative work practices.
- 4.28 Workers and employers will benefit by adopting for workplaces a high-level skills agenda that increases the capability and competitive advantage of Queensland industries and services. Further, workers and employers should contribute to developing this agenda, as it will directly benefit industry.
- 4.29 Workers and employers will benefit by the provision of relevant re-training and industry support to those employees and businesses negatively impacted by economic and industrial adjustment.
- 4.30 Workers and employers benefit by having safe and healthy workplaces where parties involved share responsibilities for preventing accidents and injuries.
- 4.31 All employees have a right to access a no-fault, universal workers' compensation and rehabilitation system that supports injured workers and their families and allows for common-law damages against negligent employers.
- 4.32 Queensland Labor's policy on industrial relations has repeatedly faced the challenge of attacks on workers' rights and conditions by conservative governments that continually amend legislation and policies to reduce the ability of union members to organise and protect workers' employment conditions.  
  
The Queensland Labor Government will support Federal Labor in repealing unjust laws and institutions (such as the ABCC) which have a detrimental effect on workers and their families.
- 4.33 Labor will proudly defend workers and their families against these attacks, restoring workers' rights and conditions by conservative governments that continually amend legislation and policies to reduce the ability of union members to organise and protect workers' employment conditions.
- 4.34 Labor will proudly defend workers and their families against these attacks, restoring workers' rights and employment conditions and ensuring fairness, equality and access to opportunity. We will fight to ensure legislative and policy changes do not disadvantage workers, whether they are in the public or private sectors.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 4.35 Labor will implement industrial relations policies within the framework of the following measures.
- 4.36 Labor will amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)* to include specific provisions relating to negligence causing death (Industrial Manslaughter) to ensure that an unscrupulous employer or entity found to have been negligent or otherwise culpable for causing serious injury or death are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This amendment is the criminal deterrent needed to save more workers lives and protect the public.
- 4.37 Labor will protect the safety of construction workers by working with stakeholders to immediately implement a strict accreditation process for Registered Training Organisations who deliver white card and Asbestos A & B Training.
- Labor will stop the fraudulent use of online training by immediately amending the Regulators' existing agreements with RTOs (under section 325) and the current terms and conditions of agreements for registered training organisations to issue general construction induction training cards, to include new requirements for RTOs that require practical components of the training to be delivered face to face.
- 4.38 Queensland Labor commits to reviewing the applied rulings for declared public service offices to ensure consistency and fairness in the application of public service directives.

## Industrial Relations

- 4.39 Labor commits to completing fair reparations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who up to the 1970s had their wages stolen under the auspices of previous State Governments, removing an injustice that has stained Queensland's history.
- 4.40 Labor acknowledges that not only do barriers exist to Indigenous workforce participation but that, once in the workforce, there is significant inequity that exists with regards to Indigenous employment continuity, wages and superannuation. Labor will seek to redress these inequities in government and 'close the career gaps' that exist for Indigenous workers.
- 4.41 Labor will encourage a workplace environment of collaboration and mutual respect between employees and employers.
- 4.42 Labor will protect job security for workers in the public sector, providing confidence for those workers and their families and restoring the proper independence of the public service.
- 4.43 Labor commits to implement labour market testing arrangements in its new procurement policy to ensure full potential of local employment opportunity and the clear preference for all workers on projects to have access to the benefits of collective bargaining industrial agreements, underpinned by awards and compliance with minimum employment standards.

- 4.44 Labor will support employers, including Government agencies, and unions to develop working time arrangements that are consistent with employees' preferences and needs and that will reduce excessive working hours and maximise employment creation. Labor will also use any means available to it to ensure no reduction of pre-1 July 2017 penalty rates for excessive or unsociable hours, weekends and public holidays for all employees.
- 4.45 Labor will ensure the protection of employment conditions through a comprehensive award framework that will provide for the well-being of working families in our state (including, but not limited to, employment conditions such as reasonable hours of work, consultation, leave, public holidays, penalty rates, overtime and allowances for disabilities or additional responsibilities).
- 4.46 That Labor explore options and incentives to encourage employers to employ persons with a disability with a view towards removing limitations and creating opportunities for people with a disability.
- 4.47 Labor commits to protecting workers' take-home pay and will not allow a reduction of State Award penalty rates for weekends and public holidays from their current level (as at 28 July 2017).
- 4.48 Labor will ensure consistent treatment of public holidays, including the issue of Easter Sunday and the treatment of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day where they fall on weekends. Further, Labor will work to provide for appropriate penalty rates and leave arrangements, where any new public holiday is gazetted.
- 4.49 Labor will re-establish collective bargaining and enterprise agreements as the core mechanism for securing wages and conditions, with no disadvantage to workers, against a comprehensive award safety net. Labor's legislation will enable unions and their members to take industrial action in support of their claims and allow agreements to be made in relation to any matters (including, but not limited to rostering, workloads, job security and right-of-entry provisions).
- 4.50 Labor is committed to working closely with Federal Labor and federal industrial relations forums to introduce a guillotine mechanism in legislation to terminate long expired collective agreements which apply to workers made under the 'WorkChoices' legislation.  
  
Labor's legislation will enable these 'zombie' agreements, which often have very few substantive provisions in the agreement which have any practical effect other than to lock out award entitlements, to be terminated with precision.
- 4.51 Labor will ensure there are no statutory individual contracts for workers covered by industrial instruments. Labor will ensure that the state's industrial relations tribunals are given primacy in determining industrial matters affecting all workers in the state's industrial relations system, including trading hours and permanency of employment.
- 4.52 Labor will ensure workers are fairly remunerated by employers for the work that they perform.
- 4.53 Labor is committed to a minimum wage that will improve the relative living standards of low paid workers.



4.54 Labor will regulate the labour hire industry, through the provision of a licencing scheme, to eliminate labour hire practices that undermine existing employment rights, conditions and job security, exploit workers, breach federal or state laws, and result in the avoidance of payroll tax and WorkCover premiums.

Once the new labour hire laws have passed Parliament, Labor will establish shortly thereafter, in consultation with unions, a new compliance unit to ensure and oversee that the new laws are complied with.

4.55 Labor will prevent transfer of business, corporate restructuring, phoenixing, labour hire, insourcing or outsourcing arrangements to be used to avoid obligations to employees under relevant legislation, an award or a collective agreement.

4.56 Labor will ensure that legislation protection exists so that subcontractors, contractors and suppliers have security of payment and agreed terms of payment.

4.57 Labor will ensure the industrial relations system operates to reduce the incidence of underemployment and insecure work and will also set an objective test for determining when a worker is casual.

4.58 Labor will ensure that employers give priority to permanent employment over other types of employment.

4.59 Labor understands the importance of state funded projects for local employment and will give priority to secure and direct employment arrangements when determining how best to manage projects and deliver services.

4.60 In circumstances where contingent workers are engaged by State Government, or state-owned entities or on state funded projects, Labor will ensure the rights of the workforce are protected by:

- ▶ implementing standards which prohibit pyramid sub-contracting, sham contracting arrangements, phoenixing, union obstruction activity, and sub-standard or out-dated employment arrangements
- ▶ implementing procurement standards that will include criteria requiring a demonstration of a proven record of, and commitment to, continued positive industrial relations practices including:
  - collective bargaining arrangements
  - workers' compensation
  - Workplace Health and Safety
  - payroll tax
  - training obligations
  - meeting trade licensing and professional registration requirements
  - fair employment standards
- ▶ establishing and funding a monitoring group to ensure tenderers comply with their contract and procurement standards during the life of any contract.



- 4.61 Employers of the contingent workforce of the government include labour hire companies providing temporary role replacement, other labour hire firms engaged by government, professional services and their subsidiary contractors. This does not include the normal purchase of inputs to government agencies such as office supplies.
- 4.62 Labor will prefer direct employment by the Government rather than labour hire and does not support the use of labour hire arrangements to reduce the wages and conditions of public sector workers. Where it is determined that roles currently undertaken by labour hire workers should be filled by direct employees, the experience of the existing labour hire employees will be considered as part of any recruitment and selection process.
- 4.63 Labor does not support the use of partnership agreements and other sham contract arrangements by employers in the maritime industry that are being used to de-unionise the workforce and avoid entitlements and legislation protections that currently accrue to employees in this industry. Labor will therefore urgently review the process and act to prevent this.
- 4.64 Labor believes in a fair, safe, efficient and sustainable shipping industry for a strong Queensland economy and regions and to protect the Great Barrier Reef.
- 4.65 Labor does not support the use of partnership agreements and other sham contract arrangements by employers in the maritime industry. Labor will explore options to amend the *Partnership Act 1891 (Qld)* or other relevant legislation to ensure that partnership agreements are not used to de-unionise the workforce and avoid entitlements and legislative protections that currently accrue to employees in this industry. Labor will, therefore, urgently review the process and act to prevent it.
- 4.66 Labor is committed to working closely with industry, unions and Queensland communities to enhance the role of intrastate shipping to grow regional economic development and jobs for Queenslanders.
- 4.67 Labor will pursue a parliamentary enquiry into intrastate shipping involving all relevant stakeholders to identify barriers and assess options for policy reform to strengthen Queensland's intrastate shipping industry and the regional economic growth it supports, and to maximise Queensland seafaring labour.
- 4.68 Labor recognises the importance of mutually beneficial economic relationships with trading partners as crucial to our nation's future prosperity.  
  
However, Labor stands with unions and communities in opposing Free Trade Agreements that would undermine job security and employment opportunities for local workers, compromise training and apprenticeships for young people, erode safety standards, expose government to costly litigation, place unprecedented power in the hands of corporations at the expense of Australian national sovereignty and impede the ability of current and future federal, state and local governments to legislate in Australia's national interest.
- 4.69 Labor will ensure that workers have the security of knowing that the terms and conditions of employment mutually agreed to by themselves and their employers will not be unilaterally extinguished or modified while in force.

- 4.70 Labor recognises and encourages the important role of unions and union delegates in enhancing and maintaining the well-being of working people and their families in Queensland.
- 4.71 Labor will ensure that consultation in relation to industrial matters is undertaken regularly through the Queensland Labour Advisory Council, which will be made up of affiliated unions, the Parliamentary Labor Party, the ALP Queensland branch and non-affiliated peak bodies by invitation.
- 4.72 Labor will ensure the freedom of unions to participate fully in matters of public debate and public policy.
- 4.73 Labor will maintain the ability of unions and their representatives to freely organise and access members so as to enhance and protect their industrial interests, including restoring right-of-entry provisions.
- 4.74 Labor will develop the capabilities and leadership of the public sector to deliver high-quality services to the Queensland community. Further, it will ensure that there is accountability for the delivery of such services and that such accountability and quality will not be outsourced or privatised.
- 4.75 Labor will ensure that workers have appropriate remedies available to them if they suffer discrimination in their workplaces.
- 4.76 Labor supports the right of every worker to a safe home, community and workplace. Labor stands against domestic and family violence. Labor commends the State Government's response to the Not Now, Not Ever report on Domestic and Family Violence, including the introduction of domestic and family violence leave of 10 days paid leave per year and employee support measures as a minimum standard and will work with stakeholders in the *Industrial Relations Act 2016 (Qld)* Review to implement this reform.
- 4.77 Labor will amend Queensland's anti-discrimination laws to include domestic and family violence victim status as a protected attribute.
- 4.78 Labor will ensure that workers have appropriate remedies available to them if they are subject to workplace bullying and that any matters of workplace bullying can be dealt with by the state's industrial relations tribunals.
- 4.79 Labor will ensure that workers have mechanisms to ensure remuneration equity for work of equal or comparable value.
- 4.80 Labor will help people manage their work and caring responsibilities through paid parental leave, rights to unpaid parental leave of up to two years, the right to request part time work or other flexible work arrangements (including an effective right of review for unreasonable refusals of their requests) and the right to work reasonable but not excessive hours.
- 4.81 Labor rejects any corruption of the national paid parental leave scheme to no longer enable working parents to access the national scheme in addition to any paid parental leave benefit negotiated at workplace level.
- 4.82 Labor is committed to the goal of minimum 26 weeks at full pay plus superannuation through a combination of government and employer contributions.

- 4.83 Labor will ensure that workers have safe workplaces and full access to support and legal rights if injured in the conduct of their employment.
- 4.84 Labor will ensure government funding is dependent on the maintenance of safe work practices, award and industrial instrument conditions on the project for which the financial assistance or investment is given.
- 4.85 Labor will recognise the important role played by workplace health and safety representatives within workplaces.
- 4.86 Labor will ensure the rights of accredited Union Officials to gain meaningful access to workplaces, particularly when responding to emergent safety issues and allowing workplace health and safety representatives the capacity to direct workers to cease work when the representative identifies imminent safety risks to workers.
- 4.87 Labor will restore the original elements of the harmonised *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)* that was brought into full effect in 2012 and will restore the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 (Qld)* to its pre-April 2012 status.
- 4.88 Labor will investigate opportunities for expanding the application of portable employment entitlements (long-service leave, superannuation) to other industry sectors.
- 4.89 Labor will ensure the industrial framework in Queensland is inclusive and incorporates an obligation on all parties to consult so that there is consistency and stability with regard to industrial matters.
- 4.90 Labor will develop legislation to provide reasonable protections for workers in relation to obtrusive surveillance in the workplace including camera, audio, email and internet monitoring, unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV/Drones) and the use of tracking devices or tracking by any means. Labor will also legislate to regulate the use of work related Drug and Alcohol testing.
- 4.91 Labor will regulate and educate employers to promote equal opportunity, gender pay equity and work and family balance. Labor will enact an equal pay for equal or comparable work strategy underpinned by legal obligations.
- 4.92 Labor will work in partnership with the business sector to bridge the gap in women's retirement incomes, through superannuation education programs and financial counselling for women.
- 4.93 Labor will work in partnership with the business and community sector to remove barriers that allow the gender pay gap to persist, including pay secrecy clauses and unequal paid parental leave.
- 4.94 Labor will reintroduce legislation similar to the *Equal Opportunity in Public Employment Act 1992 (Qld)* with the aim of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality in public sector employment.
- 4.95 Labor will reduce the gender pay gap in the public sector by having a target of women as a percentage of senior management in each public sector agency consistent with the total workforce.
- 4.96 Labor will examine the re-introduction of an advisory service for young workers in consultation with unions.

- 4.97 Labor will introduce legislation to prohibit 100% fly in fly out (FIFO) arrangements for major projects in regional Queensland.
- 4.98 Labor will ensure workers are free to choose where they live with their families and will not be discriminated against based on their geographic location. Labor will ensure that major projects make every effort to source labour locally before resorting to fly in fly out (FIFO) or drive in drive out (DIDO) arrangements.
- 4.99 Subject to the above, before State Government approvals are given for new projects that will utilise fly in fly (FIFO) out arrangements, Labor will establish a Code of Conduct which will require companies to provide high quality accommodation; demonstrate a record of responsible industrial relations and commit to comply with all legislative requirements including collective bargaining arrangements; design rosters that meet high health and safety standards, particularly in relation to fatigue; and provide for an employee's physical, social and psychological welfare.
- 4.100 Labor will review operation of the (FIFO) legislation 12 months after its enactment, paying particular attention to whether the construction and decommissioning phase of major projects should be incorporated.

## **Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation**

- 4.101 Labor will remove the retrograde denial of access to legal rights for workers injured at work, through the imposition of a threshold on whole-of-person impairment. Labor will remove this unwarranted and discriminatory threshold.
- 4.102 Labor supports the introduction of a truly independent Mine Safety and Health Authority with responsibility for ensuring the safety and health of mining resource industry workers in Queensland.
- 4.103 Labor will reverse amendments to the legislation that allow a worker's compensation history to be used against them regarding future career prospects.
- 4.104 Labor will introduce legislation for fire fighters who contract scheduled respiratory diseases so that they do not bear the burden of having to prove they contracted such disease/s while performing their duties.
- 4.105 Labor will restore the ability of people who have contracted a dust disease, such as asbestos-related disease or black lung to progress their case in an unrestricted manner rather than be required to obtain a terminal diagnosis.
- 4.106 Labor will ensure health and financial support for victims of Black Lung and other dust related diseases is of paramount importance by doing whatever is necessary to fund this support. Measures to be considered may include, but not be limited to:
- ▶ streamlining Workers' Compensation processes to ensure those diagnosed with Black Lung are treated in a similar manner as those diagnosed with mesothelioma
  - ▶ reviewing WorkCover premiums of mining companies
  - ▶ a special levy on mining companies
  - ▶ direct funding of appropriate support group

- ▶ advocating the Federal Government to ensure Medicare covers medical costs related to diagnosis and ongoing care.
- 4.107 Labor will ensure that employers do not terminate the employment of injured workers and that their rehabilitation and return to work are a priority.
- 4.108 Labor will pursue options to ensure that employers comply with their return to work/rehabilitation obligations, including enforcing compliance and providing rights of appeal.
- 4.109 Labor will work with all unions and the legal community to implement an orderly transfer to a new workers' compensation system, with due consideration of the rights of injured workers and the timing of workers' compensation payments.

# Chapter 5

**Our Environment**

**Our Future**

## LABOR VALUES

- 5.1 Queensland's unique and ecologically diverse environment must be protected, preserved and managed for the public good and in perpetuity for future generations.
- 5.2 Labor believes in a just transition to a low carbon economic growth using the principle of ecologically sustainable development (ESD). Labor will ensure that the principles and purpose of ESD and the framework of environmental economics are reflected, where required to develop a sustainable low carbon economy, in all statutory legislation.
- 5.3 The rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be central to conservation and cultural heritage management, and the value of their traditional knowledge of land and sea country management respected and acknowledged in the development of conservation policies and joint management arrangements.
- 5.4 Declining habitat and the impact of climate change requires Government to acquire and manage an increased amount of terrestrial and marine habitats to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and ecological systems.
- 5.5 Confronting the issue of climate change is an important priority for all governments. Labor recognises that Queensland is in a unique position to embrace a low-carbon future.
- 5.6 In an integrated, scientifically robust approach to the management of Queensland's natural resources, a Labor Government will focus on the connections between water, land and vegetation to underpin a coordinated policy for the management of sustainable production in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and mining.
- 5.7 Labor will investigate transitioning remote communities from diesel generated power to sustainable renewable energy.
- 5.8 Labor is committed to the 'polluter-pays' principle and this will inform and underpin policy and program design to ensure a clean Queensland environment, on which our community health and economic strength relies.
- 5.9 The Commonwealth should retain responsibility for the approval of actions that may have a significant impact on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including:
  - ▶ matters of World Heritage
  - ▶ National Heritage
  - ▶ wetlands of international importance (i.e., RAMSAR wetlands)
  - ▶ listed threatened species and communities
  - ▶ listed migratory species
  - ▶ protection of the environment from nuclear actions
  - ▶ the marine environment
  - ▶ the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park
  - ▶ the protection of water resources from unconventional gas and mining.



- 5.10 Labor supports the World Heritage List coordinated by UNESCO and will work with the Australian Government to manage listed properties in accordance with best practice and UNESCO recommendations and support new listings.

## **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 5.11 World Heritage listing of Fraser Island, the Gondwana Rainforest and Riversleigh.
- 5.12 An end to logging of remnant and regrowth native forest through the Regional Forestry Agreements.
- 5.13 Legislation to protect the Great Barrier Reef from the impact of chemicals, nutrients and sediment runoff.
- 5.14 Establishing the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce and committing to implementing the Taskforce's recommendations as part of the Reef 2050 Plan.
- 5.15 Obtaining UNESCO endorsement of the Great Barrier Reef Long-Term Sustainability Plan (Reef 2050).
- 5.16 Banning the dumping of capital dredging material within the Great Barrier Reef marine park.
- 5.17 Passing legislation to prohibit capital dredging other than in Queensland's four priority ports, ban the sea-based disposal of port-related capital dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area, and require that master planning be undertaken for priority ports.
- 5.18 Establishing an independent expert panel to lead the investigation into credible pathways to our 50% renewable energy target for Queensland in 2030.
- 5.19 Labor will ensure the management of the energy industry delivers the supply of energy in the public interest, and to maximise the benefits of public ownership and regional employment, driven by the goal of providing affordable, reliable electricity to Queenslanders while reducing pollution.

A Labor Government will continue to grow the renewable generation and storage industry in Queensland in a way that focuses on local, long term job creation in our regions (including in the planning, design and maintenance sectors), with sound industrial relations and training opportunities. This will include exploring how existing baseload generators can diversify to invest in large scale renewables and establishing a publicly-owned renewable energy entity (CleanCo) that will leverage and increase public ownership of renewable generation and storage assets, to maintain downward pressure on electricity prices and support delivery of the 5,500 MW of new large scale renewable energy generation by 2030 to meet our 50% renewable energy target.

- 5.20 Supporting the uptake of solar rooftops which combined are now our second largest power station in Queensland.
- 5.21 Initiating a large-scale renewable industry for the first time in Queensland, providing long-term financial support for up to 150 MW of installed large-scale solar generation under the Solar 150 initiative.

- 5.22 Developing legislation to end sand mining on Stradbroke Island.
- 5.23 Increasing protection of our coastal areas, with a stronger Coastal Protection Plan
- 5.24 Green zones in Moreton Bay, the Great Sandy, and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks.
- 5.25 Banning underground coal gasification in Queensland.
- 5.26 Maintaining the ban on exploration and mining in national parks.
- 5.27 Legislating a sustainable future for North Stradbroke Island by ending sand mining from 2019.
- 5.28 Restoring integrity to national park management by requiring parks' management to be guided by the primary goal to conserving nature.
- 5.29 Introducing stronger laws to protect against environmental contamination with the Chain of Responsibility amendments.
- 5.30 Reinstating the climate change policy agenda in Queensland by re-establishing a climate change policy team, and commencing work to deliver a Climate Transition Strategy for Queensland.
- 5.31 Banning the future use of PFOS and PFOA in the fire-fighting foams.

## NATURE CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE PROTECTION

### LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 5.32 Labor is committed to preserving Queensland's rich environmental, cultural and built heritage for the enjoyment and betterment of current and future generations.
- 5.33 Labor is committed to conserving Queensland's fauna, flora, ecosystems and genetic diversity by expanding the protected area estate, supporting the nomination of new world heritage areas and establishing conservation agreements with property owners. Labor is committed to managing the protected area estate and other ecological important areas in partnership with Traditional Owners.
- 5.34 Labor will continue the "State of Environment" environmental report regime as required under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)*, and will promote the State of Environment report to the community.
- 5.35 In recognition of their valuable contribution, Labor will continue to provide financial and other support to property owners and volunteers that conserve, manage and restore essential habitat, threatened ecosystems and biodiversity corridors on their properties.
- 5.36 Labor will commit to developing a mechanism for reviewing terms of mining leases in Queensland, including mining approvals, conditions and impacts on communities where necessary.

## National Parks and Protected Areas

- 5.37 Labor endorse the Convention on Biological Diversity target to preserve 17% of the Australian landmass. To meet this target, Labor will expand Queensland's protected area estate to include representative and viable samples of the state's ecological communities and bio-geographical regions.
- 5.38 Labor acknowledges the need for a comprehensive protected area estate and will restore the categories of parks to reflect the purpose and level of protection needed.
- 5.39 Labor acknowledges the high value of traditional Indigenous knowledge in natural resource and protected area management. It will establish strong relationships with the Traditional Custodians of protected areas, and ensure appropriate involvement in matters relating to the management and protection of country and biocultural values, including through joint management.
- 5.40 Labor will ensure that National Parks and the protected area estate is managed in accordance with the Cardinal Principle.
- 5.41 Labor supports the use of National Parks for appropriate and ecologically sensitive activities. To avoid adverse impacts, Labor will ensure that intensive development required to support the appropriate and ecologically sensitive use of National Parks is located outside of the boundary of protected areas.
- 5.42 Labor will ensure that development and other types of activities within National Parks and the protected area estate are managed in accordance with the Cardinal Principle.
- 5.43 Labor will continue to ensure the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service is adequately resourced to enable National Parks and the protected area estate to be properly managed.
- 5.44 Labor will ensure that comprehensive scientific management plans are established for all National Parks and the protected area estate (including Marine Parks).
- 5.45 Labor will protect and conserve ecologically important marine areas through a network of marine parks and supporting World Heritage listing for internationally important areas.

## World Heritage Listing and International Environmental Treaties

- 5.46 Labor supports the world heritage list coordinated by UNESCO. Labor in government will work with the Australian Government to manage listed properties in accordance with best practice and UNESCO recommendations and support new listings.
- 5.47 In recognition of their universal environmental and cultural values, Labor will progress nominating areas of Cape York and the Great Sandy Straits as new World Heritage Areas subject to the support of Traditional Owners, property owners and stakeholders.
- 5.48 Labor will protect Ramsar-listed and other wetlands across Queensland by ensuring that nearby development does not cause adverse impacts to wetlands ecological and hydrological values.

- 5.49 Labor will collaborate with the Australian Government to identify and nominate internationally significant wetlands in Queensland for listing under the Ramsar Convention.
- 5.50 Labor in government will respond to recommendations for protecting the marine environment arising from consultation with stakeholders and scientific investigations informing decision making on the proposed Great Sandy Strait.

### Off-Park Conservation

- 5.51 To increase the area of land where nature is protected, Labor will provide incentives to freehold property owners and rural leaseholders to establish Nature Refuges on their properties. Labor will introduce regulatory mechanisms to protect Nature Refuges and other protected areas located outside of National Parks from mining and other types of incompatible land uses.
- 5.52 Labor will provide incentives and develop market based mechanisms to encourage leaseholders and freehold land owners to protect essential habitat, threatened ecosystems and biodiversity corridors located on their property. Labor will investigate carbon farming and other market-based mechanisms to protect ecosystem services on land excluded from the Australian Government’s carbon farming framework.
- 5.53 Labor will use the regional planning system and legislative instruments to protect and restore the natural environment.

### Biodiversity Conservation

- 5.54 Labor will include in regional plans, action plans to prevent further loss of habitat for threatened species. As a priority, Labor will ensure that the revised South-East Queensland Regional Plan includes an action plan to protect koala habitat.
- 5.55 Queensland is home to a large array of flora and fauna, many of which are not found anywhere else in the world. Many of these species are threatened by habitat loss, introduced species and impacts of climate change. Labor believes that native species deserve legislative and regulatory protection under both the *Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)* and the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*.
- 5.56 Labor will establish a Wildlife Commissioner to lead threatened species recovery and manage human and wildlife interactions.
- 5.57 Labor will develop and implement threatened species recovery plans, which include recovery targets.
- 5.58 Labor commits to developing and delivering a new biodiversity strategy including prioritising corridors for climate adaption and climate refugia.
- 5.59 Labor will identify and protect significant nature conservation corridors in urban areas to ensure secure, connected habitat for threatened species such as koalas and cassowaries, and to provide nature based recreation education and cultural experiences for residents and visitors.
- 5.60 Labor supports:

- ▶ the maintenance of rigorous and scientifically based classification of threatened native species
- ▶ government-funded programs to rehabilitate populations of threatened species in the protected area estate and private land
- ▶ the protection of people from potentially dangerous native animals according to independent scientific research
- ▶ the humane culling of non-threatened native species according to independent scientific monitoring of numbers in the wild.

## **Social, Cultural and Built Heritage Protection**

- 5.61 Labor recognises the bio-cultural values and traditional knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that exist on land, and in water courses and over sea country and will ensure their protection through a statutory cultural register, the maintenance of native title rights, the planning framework, the education system and appropriate presentation and interpretation. Legislation and policy to support protection will be developed in collaboration with traditional owners using consultation processes that ensure that those authorised to speak for country are properly consulted.
- 5.62 Labor also values more recent history since the first European contact and will work to protect significant places and artefacts through both local and state-wide heritage lists. We recognise the obligation of property owners to adequately maintain heritage-listed sites and will examine methods to reward owners who meet their responsibilities. We will preserve Queensland's social, cultural and built heritage through state and regional planning schemes and through a well-resourced heritage sector including museum networks.
- 5.63 Labor will introduce new protections to prevent encroachment on heritage areas and areas of local heritage significance. This is to protect the heritage value of local areas.
- 5.64 Labor will investigate and introduce new forms of protection for heritage precincts and local streetscapes.
- 5.65 Labor will investigate new ways to fund and use heritage places that are not currently protected for cultural tourism and other purposes.

## **Climate Change and Renewable Energy**

- 5.66 Labor accepts that human-induced greenhouse gas emissions are the major cause of accelerated global climate change. Labor endorses commitments and ambition of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit and keep global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius.
- 5.67 Labor accepts the 2015 advice of the Australian Climate Change Authority on Australia's emissions reduction targets as part of the global effort to mitigate the effects of climate change. Labor believes that the best way to contribute to global action is to establish a national emissions trading scheme.
- 5.68 In the absence of an effective national climate change framework, Labor will develop and implement policies to reduce state-wide Greenhouse gas emissions and to enable Queensland to adapt to the effects of climate change.

## Domestic Emissions

- 5.69 Labor will implement energy efficiency measures and incorporate climate and environmental sustainability across the economy, including:
- ▶ water supply, distribution and use
  - ▶ energy generation, distribution and use, including time-of-use and demand management tariffs and Virtual Net Metering for commercial and residential customers
  - ▶ government services and procurement
  - ▶ transport, logistics and distribution
  - ▶ infrastructure investments
  - ▶ land use planning and building design
  - ▶ Zero net carbon emissions in Queensland by 2050.
- 5.70 Labor will increase the production and use of renewable energy by:
- ▶ implementing targets that align with the National Labor Platform of at least 50% by 2030 and that are contingent on the creation of a new federal agency to assist with the retraining, deployment and compensation of workers impacted by the transition to renewable energy
  - ▶ investing in renewable energy research and development to provide schemes to encourage energy efficiency and the uptake of renewable energy
  - ▶ ensuring that the electricity grid is able to equitably accept and distribute dispersed renewable energy generation
  - ▶ developing a plan that incorporates transitioning power generation companies to renewable energy whilst maintaining employment and that includes research and development
  - ▶ facilitation of secure and sustainable employment in clean energy industries
  - ▶ 50% renewable energy by 2030
  - ▶ Improving energy efficiency of Queensland's commercial (non-residential) building sector by 50% by 2030
  - ▶ 50% improvement in residential building energy efficiency performance by 2030
  - ▶ ensuring the state's generators remain in public ownership and the Labor Government investigates opportunities for public and community ownership models in new large scale renewable energy generation projects as part of a just transition to a clean energy economy, in full consultation with industry stakeholders.
- 5.71 Labor shall investigate solar road policies and further undertake funded research, design and development of solar roads as part of an overall strategy to deal with the challenges of human induced climate change.



- 5.72 In partnership with relevant stakeholders, landholders, Indigenous communities and industry, Labor will trial the production of innovative biofuels and bio-products.
- 5.73 In government, Labor will set carbon budgets for all government agencies against which agencies will have to budget and report against, on a two-yearly basis.
- 5.74 Labor will reduce emissions from land management, transport and industry by:
- ▶ strictly controlling land clearing and re-vegetating degraded land including through regulation and incentives
  - ▶ supporting primary producers to adopt practices that sequester carbon in soils and perennial vegetation, encouraging carbon farming with the aim of achieving 'zero-net carbon' farms
  - ▶ supporting energy-efficient technologies that convert emissions and plant wastes into energy and other bio-industrial products
  - ▶ not approving new fossil fuelled power stations without deploying full carbon capture and storage
  - ▶ encourage industry to improve its capture and reuse of gases (fugitive emissions) produced by extractive industries for energy use and to minimise unnecessary flaring (and wasting) productive gases
  - ▶ investigate the feasibility of implementing carbon capture and storage to existing coal fired power stations and increasing research and development around new technologies that reduce emissions attached to the coal industry
  - ▶ agriculture, with support for demonstration projects of 'zero-net carbon' farms and farm management practices
  - ▶ develop and deliver a low emission transport strategy which plans for emerging and disruptive technologies as well as changes in transport behaviours, and vehicle ownership and use.

## Transitional Arrangements

- 5.75 To facilitate the transition from current fossil fuel dependency to a low emission Queensland economy, Labor in government will:
- ▶ deliver a strategy, within this term of government, for a just transition which will identify, develop, and support new job opportunities created by new technologies and industries that are low carbon and climate resilient, particularly in regional areas dominated by emissions intensive and climate-exposed industries
  - ▶ coordinate all areas of government responsibility to take into account climate effects
  - ▶ develop community awareness and engagement programs
  - ▶ identify, develop and support new job opportunities created by low emission technologies
  - ▶ ensure there is protection for low income energy users from significant price rises



- ▶ identify and optimise revenue streams arising from low carbon and climate resilient technologies
- ▶ encourage the development of sustainable, zero carbon industries in regions dominated by unsustainable industries
- ▶ encourage the development of sustainable, zero carbon industries in regions where employment and economic opportunities are dominated by high polluting industries.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

5.76 Labor acknowledges Queensland’s unique and ecologically diverse environment must be protected and managed now and into the future. Labor will therefore follow principles of environmental policy, including:

- ▶ the precautionary principle
- ▶ intergenerational equity
- ▶ conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity.

5.77 Labor acknowledges that the prosperity of present and future generations of Queenslanders is dependent on the health of our natural environment and the effective management of all natural resources. Labor understands the interconnection between land management practices and the health of marine environments, most notably through water quality. Labor is committed to sustainably managing the state’s natural resources, by implementing the following policies.

#### Land and Vegetation

- 5.78 Labor will prevent broad-acre clearing and clearing of endangered and threatened ecosystems and essential habitat for threatened species and ecologically sensitive areas.
- 5.79 Labor will establish programs to revegetate depleted landscapes and ecosystems.
- 5.80 Labor will continue to support programs that reduces soil erosion and sediment loads entering waterways. Labor will provide incentives to property owners to restore high conservation value terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.
- 5.81 Labor will support primary producers to adopt low-impact practices such as reducing fertilisers and synthetic pesticide use, improved pest weed and animal control and appropriate fire management regimes.
- 5.82 Labor will improve management of rural state land to include environmental targets.

#### Coastal and Marine Management

5.83 Labor will ensure coastal development is managed sustainably, for current and future generations, by considering the social and environmental impacts in addition to the economic benefits.

- 5.84 Labor will sustainably manage the coastal and marine zone for current and future generations by reviewing, strengthening and integrating coastal and marine management legislation, and integrating coastal management and marine planning and development assessment.
- 5.85 Labor will ensure the protective function of natural coastal environments (for example, dune systems) is recognised, and where new development is proposed a buffer zone should be provided to allow the natural fluctuation of the foreshore and foreshore ecosystems to continue.
- 5.86 Labor will continue to ensure the public's access to the coastal zone is enhanced.
- 5.87 Labor will protect coastal and marine zones by prohibiting large-scale reclamation within marine parks and wetlands. Reclamation outside marine parks and wetlands must meet strict environmental standards.
- 5.88 Labor will protect coastal and marine zones by prohibiting large-scale reclamation within marine parks and wetlands. Reclamation outside marine parks and wetlands must meet strict environmental standards.
- 5.89 Labor will investigate the need for a stronger strategy that supports connectivity in marine environments and habitats.

## Water

- 5.90 Labor will continue to ensure that Queensland's catchment based water plans will provide sustainable water allocation for the environment, agriculture, industries and population centres.  
  
Labor will also investigate how to increase the sustainable ecological, economic and social resilience of catchments, which will incorporate improving and integrating land use planning, development approval processes, flood mitigation, agricultural and other land use practices, maintaining catchment ecological functions, water quality management and remediating impacts to catchment hydrology (including surface water, underground water and overland flow).
- 5.91 Labor will continue to protect rivers, wetlands, estuaries and groundwater systems by ensuring that seasonal flow regimes are maintained.
- 5.92 Labor will price water to reflect the costs of supply and encourage users to invest in efficient water supply and use.
- 5.93 Labor will improve community resilience and reduce flooding impacts by re-vegetating waterways and upper catchments.
- 5.94 Labor will reinstate natural flow regimes by removing redundant or ineffective in-stream barriers and by ensuring that releases from water storages replicate seasonal flow regimes.
- 5.95 Labor will continue to protect the extent and function of natural wetlands and will restore wetlands that provide important ecosystem functions and services.
- 5.96 Labor will support local water harvesting where it is ecologically sustainable and environmental impacts can be minimized and mitigated.

- 5.97 Labor will investigate and develop minimum requirements for installing rainwater tanks in all new domestic, commercial and industrial buildings in Queensland as well as other water efficient supply systems, that includes grey water processing, for all new government, commercial and industrial buildings that enables appropriate environmental accreditation and the potential for retrofitting.
- 5.98 Labor will ensure that new dams are only supported where there is a recognised need that cannot be met by alternative options, and where the impact to the environment can be avoided or minimised and, if there are no alternatives, offset.
- 5.99 Labor will monitor and manage water extracted from all aquifers, including the Great Artesian Basin, by all industries, in order to protect the sustainability of the resource and dependent ecosystems. Labor will regulate containment and reinjection of treated CSG water.
- 5.100 Labor will require impacts to water quality from wastewater discharged to waterways by agriculture, mining, urban development and other industries to be offset.
- 5.101 Labor will ensure that impacts to catchment hydrology that occur from diverting waterways will be minimised and mitigated.
- 5.102 Following consultation with relevant stakeholders, Indigenous communities and industry, Labor will introduce legislation to protect river systems which are currently in almost-unchanged condition or with high ecological values in the Channel Country, Cape York, the Gulf and other parts of Queensland.
- 5.103 Labor will continue to implement Queensland’s National Water Initiative obligations.
- 5.104 Labor will increase the use of new technologies that will provide continuous, real-time monitoring of water quality.
- 5.105 Labor will continue to improve public consultation processes associated with the management of Queensland’s water resources.

## **Environmental Impacts of Extractive Resources**

- 5.106 Labor acknowledges and supports the great contribution the resources industry has made to our state, our economy and our community. Labor also acknowledges that the industry has the potential to cause environmental harm, which can take many years to remediate and can impact on other industries such as agriculture and tourism.
- 5.107 Labor will implement the findings of the 2017 Financial Assurance review and introduce the requirement that resource development (mine, gas and petroleum) sites are progressively and fully rehabilitated.
- 5.108 Labor will subject new coal to liquid fuel projects in Queensland to rigorous scientific and environmental impacts and cost benefit analysis. Labor will prohibit uranium mining and Underground Coal Gasification in Queensland.

- 5.109 Labor will commission an independent, rigorous scientific assessment of oil shale, shale oil and shale gas extraction. The assessment will consider the environmental impact of exploitation of these resources and impacts on other industries including agriculture and tourism. Labor will not proceed with the development of these resources until there has been a public consideration of the environmental impacts of oil shale, shale oil and shale gas extraction, including consideration by ALP State Conference.
- 5.110 Labor will work to reduce Queensland's dependence on fossil fuels and explore new export industries in response to directly declining market demand.
- 5.111 Labor will require independent water models of designated gas development areas. The models will consider spring complexes, groundwater recharge areas and whether there is demonstrated connectivity between targeted coal seams and water supply aquifers.
- 5.112 Labor will continue to improve the standard of environment, social and economic impact assessments of proposed development projects.
- 5.113 Labor will ensure environmental legislation includes calculation of carbon emissions as part of the environmental assessment.

## **Great Barrier Reef and Marine Conservation**

- 5.114 Queensland has an extraordinarily rich and diverse marine environment that includes areas of international significance (for example, the Great Barrier Reef, Moreton Bay and the Great Sandy Straits). As Queenslanders, we are custodians of these important marine environments and have a responsibility to protect, conserve, rehabilitate and manage them for current and future generations.
- 5.115 Labor recognises that climate change is the greatest long-term threat to the Great Barrier Reef and other marine environments. To address this threat, Labor will introduce policies and programs to reduce Queensland's greenhouse gas emissions and advocate the introduction of a national climate change response framework.
- 5.116 Labor recognizes that poor water quality is the greatest immediate threat to the Great Barrier Reef and other marine environments. As poor catchment management and land use practices are known to degrade marine water quality, Labor will introduce policies and programs to assist landholders and primary producers adopt ecologically sustainable practices. To track achievements, Labor will prepare an annual report on progress in meeting catchment pollution reduction and land use practice change targets.
- 5.117 Labor reaffirms our commitment to marine conservation and will review and strengthen marine and coastal management legislation to protect and conserve Queensland's important marine environments, while balancing this with the sustainable recreational and commercial use of these areas.
- 5.118 Labor will manage and expand marine conservation programs based on sound scientific evidence and advice, including an investigation and ongoing scientific review of for non-lethal shark monitoring, control, and incident prevention measures that provide an effective level of public safety and recognise the need to protect important and vulnerable marine species.

- 5.119 Labor will facilitate incentives to improve the health of our marine environment through industry-based programs such as the Reef Water Quality Science Program, and through the use of environmental offsets to provide incentives for land holders to protect riparian areas. This includes developing mechanisms to attract and support international investments in programs that will deliver protection outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.

### **Dredging and Disposal of Dredged Material**

- 5.120 Labor remains committed to prohibiting the dumping of capital dredge spoil within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area (GBRWHA). Labor will reduce the impacts to the GBRWH from the dumping of maintenance dredge spoil by establishing a maintenance dredging framework consistent with the Reef 2050 Plan. In other state marine waters Labor will ensure that development of new and the operation of existing ports meet world's best environmental practices.
- 5.121 Labor will investigate utilising dredged spoil for beach nourishment purposes as a means to mitigate coastal erosion.

### **Waste Management**

- 5.122 Labor will apply the principles of circular economy, prioritising resource efficiency and recovery of waste. Labor will support regional economies to become closed-loop systems as much as practicably possible to support new economy jobs and limit resource leakage.
- 5.123 Labor will apply full life cycle management of resources to encourage recycling.
- 5.124 Labor supports the polluter-pays principle and will introduce pricing mechanisms to encourage more efficient use of waste streams to reduce disposal of waste to landfill.
- 5.125 Labor will provide incentives for industries to improve their practices and reduce the amount of waste material they produce.
- 5.126 Labor will promote the principles of Clean Production in all commercial and industrial activities, and will use the State Government's purchasing policies and other measures to take a leadership role in maximising the use of goods made from recycled and renewable materials.
- 5.127 Labor will recognise the key role that the waste sector plays in supporting the transition to a renewable energy economy by progressing measures to facilitate greater exploitation and use of renewable natural gas (biogas) for energy generation and as an input for manufacturing and industrial operations.
- 5.128 Labor will implement programs and penalties to tackle litter and illegal dumping of waste and, in particular, asbestos waste.
- 5.129 Labor will prohibit single use plastic bags.
- 5.130 Labor will ban the ceremonial mass release of balloons at government and non-government events to prevent dangerous plastic waste entering waterways and marine areas.
- 5.131 In the absence of a national framework, Labor will introduce a state-based container deposit scheme.

- 5.132 Labor will encourage the expansion of the Queensland recycling and bio-industrial sector industry by:
- ▶ using market-based mechanisms to reduce landfill and make recycling more cost-effective, competitive and marketable
  - ▶ implementing measures that will ensure valuable and carbon-rich waste streams are recovered and repurposed, particularly for biofuel, bioenergy and other bio-industrial products
  - ▶ educating the community and business to increase participation in recycling schemes
  - ▶ investigating ways to beneficially reuse/improve collection of waste from regional areas to processing centres
  - ▶ providing incentives to encourage research, development, manufacture, marketing and job creation of products made from recycled and reusable materials.

## Landfill

- 5.133 Labor recognises landfill destroys the natural value of areas, increases the prevalence of pests and weeds and is responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases. It is also a burden to nearby residents and businesses. Labor will ensure that the cost of dealing with landfill is borne by the waste generators not by communities.
- 5.134 Labor will set forward volume and tonnage targets for reducing unrecovered resources in waste streams based on improved data collection.
- 5.135 Labor will ensure that landfill sites:
- ▶ follow strict environmental guidelines
  - ▶ are appropriately planned to ensure adequate buffer zones between nearby homes and businesses
  - ▶ ensure the capture and beneficial reuse or safe disposal of methane and other pollutants from landfill sites
  - ▶ prioritise closed landfill sites for renewable energy infrastructure, bioenergy cropping, and ecosystem corridors.

## Implementation and Transition

- 5.136 Labor will collaborate with stakeholders including traditional owners, landholders, industry peak bodies, unions, regional natural resource management bodies and the conservation sector. Labor will ensure that consultation with traditional owners is undertaken by those authorised to speak for country and, where necessary, will prepare legislation to deliver and adequately resource government departments to monitor and enforce compliance.
- 5.137 Labor will implement a plan to transition Queensland to a low carbon economy.

- 5.138 Labor will provide extension services to primary producers and landholders to assist transition to ecologically sustainable practices and new economy production. Labor will provide reskilling support and development assistance to workers and communities dependent on the fossil fuel resource industry to transition to sustainable industry.
- 5.139 Labor will review and amend the *Queensland Environmental Offsets Act 2014 (Qld)* to ensure that offsets:
- ▶ Are only utilized as a last resort
  - ▶ Deliver an actual benefit for affected species and ecosystems
  - ▶ Are applied strategically and are legally secure.
- 5.140 Labor will continue to support the community's engagement in the development of Terms of Reference (ToR) for development proposals and the development and implementation of legislation, plans, programs and other government initiatives.



## Chapter 6

**Healthy Living:**

**a better quality of life**

**for all Queenslanders**

## LABOR VALUES

- 6.1 Labor values and supports a well-resourced, publicly funded, universal health system that helps Queenslanders achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and well-being.
- This health system needs to be effective, coordinated, efficient and sustainable, providing appropriate and timely evidence-based services.
- 6.2 Good health, needs and means more than well-functioning free hospitals and Medicare-funded GP services. Providing all citizens with the best opportunities to live full, happy, healthy and productive lives requires proactive, effective, preventative and protective public health programs, and integration with other government and non-government services.
- Such programs need to take account of economic, social, employment and environmental conditions. They need to address, among other things, Queensland's growing, ageing and highly decentralised population, as well as Queensland's great cultural, social, cultural, economic and infrastructure diversity.
- 6.3 Attaining a better quality of life for current and future generations of Queenslanders is the responsibility of all Queenslanders. Commonwealth, state and local governments, community-based organisations, private health services, families and individuals must all be involved in maximising the health potential of this state through investment in:
- ▶ action and incentives to maintain wellness, both mental and physical
  - ▶ prevention of disease and injury
  - ▶ early detection and treatment of disease
  - ▶ appropriate hospital and community-based treatment, care, rehabilitation, palliation, and support for living and dying with dignity
  - ▶ easing suffering and minimising disability
  - ▶ research to foster innovation and the sharing of effective practices shown to improve specific services and the health of individuals and communities
  - ▶ education and positive cultural change for the public and for the health workforce
  - ▶ equity, by addressing socio-economic disadvantage and the social determinants of health
  - ▶ the provision of frameworks that support community and society, to ensure access, information, education and assistance so all can participate and benefit
  - ▶ coordinated service delivery that delivers patient outcomes.
- 6.4 A comprehensive whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach is essential to ensure that healthy choices are always easy choices and that needed services are readily accessible and affordable by all sectors of society.
- Broad partnerships and opportunities for action need to be established among government, non-government and private sectors to guarantee access for all.

- 6.5 The core goals Labor seeks to achieve for the health of Queenslanders are:
- ▶ access to safe, ethical and quality services for enhancing well-being and treating illness and injury
  - ▶ access that maintains dignity and self-determination
  - ▶ timely receipt of services without catastrophic financial consequences for both individuals and communities
  - ▶ innovative, patient and community-focussed, cost-effective processes for delivering public health by using all available appropriate resources most effectively
  - ▶ involvement of all sectors and communities in the planning, design, delivery and oversight of services for a healthier Queensland.
- 6.6 These goals are the bedrock of Labor's policy position for a healthier Queensland.

## **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 6.7 At state level, Labor has led the way in delivering better health care and a healthier community by:
- ▶ introducing nurse to patient ratios in selected hospitals and health facilities of four to one for morning and afternoon shifts and seven to one overnight to deliver improvements to patient care and safety
  - ▶ introducing The Nursing Guarantee initiative to provide one year's guaranteed employment for up to 4 000 graduate nurses over four years and 16 nurse educators to assist them kick start their careers with Queensland Health
  - ▶ introducing the Refresh Nursing program to employ 400 nurse navigators to assist those suffering from chronic illness to get the care most appropriate to their needs
  - ▶ implementing a Specialist Outpatients' Strategy to tackle the significant number of Queenslanders left waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist appointment
  - ▶ developing a Sexual Health Strategy to tackle SDIs in North Queensland
  - ▶ investing in the roll of the digital hospital program to ensure that our health system harnesses technology to deliver efficiencies and improved patient outcomes
  - ▶ establishing Queensland's free hospital system, maternal and child health services, and school dental services across the state
  - ▶ expanding or rebuilding every major hospital in Queensland during the last Labor Government, the largest health infrastructure program ever in Australia
  - ▶ achieving the shortest elective surgery waiting times in the country and reducing the average waiting times in emergency departments
  - ▶ helping to lift Queenslanders' life expectancy by 2.7 years in the last decade

- ▶ employing thousands more doctors, nurses and health professionals to provide quality health care to all Queenslanders through the Health Action Plan
  - ▶ improving quality and accountability processes across all areas of health services especially in clinical care, including the establishment of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission
  - ▶ improving vaccination and cancer screening rates
  - ▶ developing and implementing a long-term plan for a healthier Queensland
  - ▶ funding medical research infrastructure
  - ▶ creating a Ministerial Advisory Committee on sexual health with a view to reviewing and implementing a state-wide coordinated sexual health strategy
  - ▶ commissioning a report by the Parliamentary Committee into the re-emergence of pneumoconiosis
  - ▶ introducing legislation to establish a separately funded Health Promotion and Prevention Commission, called the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland, to build both whole-of-system and local capacity initially focusing on obesity prevention and physical activity.
- 6.8 Labor has legislated to make medicinal cannabis available for medical and pharmaceutical purposes on prescription for specified conditions following appropriate clinical trials.
- 6.9 At Commonwealth level, Labor:
- ▶ created Medibank, and later Medicare, to provide free access for all to hospitals and bulk-billing GP services
  - ▶ made prescription drugs more affordable through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
  - ▶ introduced the Community Health Program and Medicare Locals to provide individuals and communities with health services not available in acute hospitals
  - ▶ has provided free basic dental care access to thousands of children through the Children’s Dental Benefits Scheme increased funding for regional health programs by 150%
  - ▶ implemented the National Mental Health Plans and the National Drug Strategy.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 6.10 Labor believes in strengthening our publicly funded health and mental health system so that all Queenslanders can always obtain quality, affordable primary, acute and chronic health care if and when they need it, regardless of their wealth, sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, age, ethnic background, or location.
- 6.11 Labor believes that public hospitals and health services should be owned, managed and operated by the state.

- 6.12 Labor believes in taking the longer-term view of health by investing in education, primary health care, research, health promotion and illness prevention, and by focusing on good health rather than ill health. This way Queenslanders can make healthy choices, live healthier lives, and thereby reduce the burden of chronic disease on our health services, and ensure a healthier and more productive society.
- 6.13 Labor believes that sound prevention investments will save several-fold in treatment costs.
- 6.14 Labor believes good health involves physical, mental and social well-being, rather than merely the absence of disease or infirmity.
- 6.15 Labor believes in providing person and community-centred services that take account of individual differences, preferences and cultural diversity, and are designed to promote ease of access, navigation and continuity of care.
- 6.16 Labor believes in providing community based safe housing as an option for people presenting at risk of suicide or with suicide ideation, and for those transitioning from mental health services back into the community, in order to gain appropriate support and care during their time of risk.
- 6.17 Labor believes that developing whole-of-government links is vital to promoting healthy outcomes for the whole population.
- 6.18 Labor believes in partnering with individuals and education providers to ensure that an appropriately qualified, culturally competent, clinically skilled, and experienced health and community workforce is available to provide the services required now and into the future.
- 6.19 Labor believes in facilitating open, transparent reporting and public accountability regarding the provision of health services, within a supportive culture that encourages improvement and innovation.
- 6.20 Labor believes in engaging consumers, carers, health-service providers, clinicians, local communities, non-government organisations and unions in active partnerships to address:
- ▶ all aspects of advocacy
  - ▶ the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating of health policy
  - ▶ service delivery and societal engagement
  - ▶ the identification of efficiencies within the system to ensure sustainability of quality health care for the public and service delivery providers alike.
- 6.21 Labor believes in ensuring that evidence-based value for money is a primary consideration in its policy and service delivery for healthy living.
- 6.22 Labor believes in building a skilled, valued and sustainable workforce within a system that is efficient and delivers safe, quality, patient-focused services.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 6.23 Labor will continue to restore harmony to the health system and promote negotiated solutions to manage change.

- 6.24 Labor will promote the department’s role as the System Manager of Queensland Health, providing strategic direction and coordination to:
- ▶ ensure appropriate provision of community services as well as hospital-based services
  - ▶ regulation/licensing necessary for safe provision of services and to address any failings that may arise from time to time
  - ▶ co-ordinate the relationships among hospital and health services, primary health networks, ambulance, NGOs and private providers to foster continuity of care for people with complex health needs, both mental and physical
  - ▶ prevent expensive duplication of services across sectors and hospital and health services
  - ▶ improve transparency and clarity for waiting times, demand, activity and waiting list management for public hospitals
  - ▶ work with the private sector to ensure that public and private health services complement each other
  - ▶ ensure there is adequate publicly funded services for high needs groups, including those who need to access treatment for alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

6.25 Labor will not outsource or privatise any current service managed and delivered by Queensland Health. Labor will insource services currently delivered by the private sector where it is financially viable.

6.26 Labor will continue ongoing support for a separately funded Health Promotion and Prevention Commission to build both whole-of-system and local capacity across a range of health promotion and prevention priorities, including the social determinants of health and the effects of the determinants on health inequity.

This Commission will work with local health and hospital authorities, primary health networks, and other entities, including industry or community organisations, university or other educational or research institutions, and local government, to promote health and well-being, ensuring and expanding the range of early detection and early intervention services across all areas of developmental, physical and mental health through educational and clinical programs, for effective, on-going management and continuity of care.

Further, this Commission will partner with HHSs and local services and other entities for providing primary health care where people live, work and shop, to promote better health and well-being. The partnerships will focus on promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy communities towards the goal of making Queenslanders the healthiest people in the world.

Concurrently, Labor in government considers it essential that Queensland Health will also maintain and, indeed strengthen, a central health promotion and prevention capacity in the Department, which was brutally cut by the previous LNP State Government, to ensure a strong ability to conduct effective state-wide health promotion campaigns, gather and report meaningful health promotion data, epidemiology and trends, maintain various statutory health promotions requirements (i.e. food safety, water safety, radiation safety, etc) as well as ensure the fair

and equitable distribution and coordination of scarce health promotion resources such as cancer screening mobile facilities. Labor regards this as an essential function of good government and will work to enhance and build through further funding wherever possible.

This central section of the Department of Health will focus on:

- ▶ the promotion of good mental health
- ▶ the identification of people at risk of suicide and referrals to appropriate services and support programs
- ▶ the promotion and resourcing of positive mental health programs such as Mates in Construction and other similar, especially initiatives in high risk industries
- ▶ health education programs to improve health literacy in a range of clinical and community settings
- ▶ positive social marketing for health well-being
- ▶ the prevention of chronic physical illness and injury
- ▶ the promotion of good nutrition and physical activity
- ▶ prevention of the spread of communicable disease
- ▶ the promotion of good sun safety
- ▶ promotion of safety of food, water, environment and radiation use
- ▶ the implementation of proven harm reduction strategies from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- ▶ sexual disease services health and disease prevention
- ▶ appropriate services for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/ questioning community, young Queenslanders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and disadvantaged Queenslanders
- ▶ vaccination and cancer screening services.
- ▶ addressing the social determinants of health, including commissioning academic research to establish baseline data for these determinants of health and the effects of these determinants on health inequity in Queensland.

6.27 Labor will ensure all publicly funded health services encourage and facilitate the participation of patients and clients in the Australian Government's personally controlled electronic health record system (My Health Record). Further, public and contracted health services will promote the use of contemporary health technologies such as imaging, decision support, genomics, data analytics, telehealth and eHealth information systems to:

- ▶ improve access to and support for, specialist services including acute and emergency care
- ▶ provide more timely discharge information to treating clinicians and services
- ▶ provide services to rural and remote communities to lower the travel costs of patients, their families and the hospital and health services



- ▶ provide information on the local health precinct
- ▶ improve access to routine screening and to allied health services
- ▶ Improve access to health and community professional education
- ▶ provide key statistical information on service delivery, chronic disease, health care outcomes and community health
- ▶ provide multi-functional business hubs for education, professional trade and skills training, community consultation and exchange.

6.28 Labor will empower families, individuals and communities to adopt healthy lifestyles and improve levels of physical activity for public health. Labor in government will develop and adopt a new whole-of-government Strategy to further improve the levels of Physical Activity in Queensland, in line with the National Physical Activity and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines, that will see Queenslanders become the most physically active population in Australia by 2020.

6.29 Other key strategic priorities will:

- ▶ design, establish and evaluate services in partnership with consumers, carers, clinicians, health care providers, local government and the community
- ▶ enable the full use of professional scopes of practice for all health practitioners and their assistants, to meet the clinical needs and quality expectations of the public and improve efficiency
- ▶ improve cooperation between medical research and health services to enable a more efficient and effective translation of research into practice
- ▶ report on performance indicators in an annual public health report that includes reporting on service delivery and efficiency, physical and mental illness and community indicators of wellness
- ▶ establish and evaluate a variety of models of treatment, supportive accommodation and services, for people with disabilities or who need rehabilitation, convalescence or palliative care outside the public acute hospital system, in home-like, age-appropriate settings
- ▶ invest in programs, initiatives and research to attract health care professionals to regional and remote areas
- ▶ commit to technological innovation that empowers regional and remote communities to access specialists and healthcare professionals on a needs basis
- ▶ enhance community midwifery programs for the best possible life start for infants and for good parenting
- ▶ establish a new community based safe housing model of care, support and treatment for suicide prevention and people transitioning from mental health services back into the community
- ▶ Labor will act to introduce fluoride to water systems state-wide to protect the teeth of our children.

- 6.30 Labor recognises the enormous increase in suicide among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young peoples and is committed to early intervention and prevention through innovative practices and support structures with community-led organisations.
- 6.31 Labor recognises the substantial increase in the use of synthetic drugs among our young people and is committed to early intervention and prevention through innovative practices and support structures, working in partnership with community-led organisations in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

## **Enhancing Services for Specific Populations**

- 6.32 Labor will partner with the Commonwealth, local governments and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander controlled community health organisations to improve health promotion, illness prevention, early detection and treatment services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, to close the gap in health status and life expectancy between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians. Addressing a range of social determinants of health such as housing, employment, education and economic development will be central to this work as it will enhance environmental health, water supply and sewerage provision.
- 6.33 Labor will introduce integrated health checks in all Queensland Health and hospital services to promote early detection and effective, ongoing management of people at high risk of developing chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular and kidney disease and mental illness.
- 6.34 Labor commits to resourcing adequately, drug and alcohol services that include early intervention and prevention, harm reduction and rehabilitation in urban, regional and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, in partnership with Aboriginal controlled community health organisations.
- 6.35 Labor commits to investigating how early intervention screening tools can be more accessible and affordable to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 6.36 Labor recognises the importance of having culturally appropriate services and identified positions and commits to continuing and increasing access to these services and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Addressing a range of social determinants of health such as housing, employment, education and economic development will be central to this work, as it will enhance environmental health, water supply and sewerage provision and be central to reducing economic, social and health disparities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.
- 6.37 Labor will work with resource communities, the resources industry, and health and air quality experts to ensure that those living in proximity to resources developments are protected from air, noise and vibration impacts of extractive industry activities.

Further, Labor will mandate air quality monitoring in resource communities to ensure that air, noise and vibration impacts are maintained to equal or below best practice benchmarks in proximity to towns, communities and other land-uses deemed sensitive. Labor will mandate safe levels of dust in underground and aboveground mine sites

with stringent monitoring and reporting mechanisms to prevent coal dust inhalation.

- 6.38 Labor will provide accessible, culturally appropriate mental illness prevention, early detection and intervention services, and recovery orientated support services across all communities including newly arrived migrants, refugees, regional, rural and remote, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Questioning/Queer people, those living without carer support, the homeless and those held in custody. This will include a model for stepped care that includes self-help, peer-based and online services integrated with existing community to bed-based treatment services through clear treatment pathways, and provided by a mental health and/or social and emotional well-being health support workforce of clinical staff and staff with lived experience of mental illness. Labor acknowledges the impact of cross-generational trauma for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and will ensure these strategies take account of that history and personal experience across their communities. Young vulnerable people at high risk of self-harm require our particular attention.
  
- 6.39 Labor will adopt the principle of free health care in our Queensland public health facilities for asylum seekers, refugees, and holders of temporary compassionate visas.
  
- 6.40 Labor reaffirms its opposition to discrimination in all its forms. Accordingly, the government will conduct a review of the processes through which a child identifying as transgender is able to access appropriate hormone and support services by July 2019. The current system requiring the matter to be adjudicated by a court is both traumatising and expensive. Labor will consider alternative pathways, involving assessment and counselling from clinicians and qualified psychologists, in consultation with the individual and his/her family or carers, to allow professional, inclusive and less intrusive assessments to be made and appropriate treatment regimes to be engaged.
  
- 6.41 Labor supports the introduction of an Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) for respirable coal dust (including mixed mineral coal mine dust) in line with international best practice.  
  
Labor supports amending section 89 of the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001 (Qld)* to mirror the OEL requirement.
  
- 6.42 Labor will enhance mental health services through a model of shared service provision and collaboration across government sectors, and between the non-government sector and the government sector that encourages open dialogue and collaborative case management and support.
  
- 6.43 Labor will develop comprehensive reproductive health services, including pregnancy counselling, post-natal infant care, fertility and termination procedures, particularly for Queenslanders in regional and remote areas.
  
- 6.44 Labor will work towards ensuring that rehabilitation services across all age groups are available in regional and remote areas.

- 6.45 Labor will work to improve the sexual health of all Queenslanders by implementing the Queensland Sexual Health Strategy 2016-2021 and further seek to achieve the national goal of ending HIV transmission by 2020 through improved clinical and diagnostic services, increasing access to testing, counselling and on-going support and by developing collaborative relationships with all relevant community based organisations, particularly those who represent the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning community.
- 6.46 Labor will extend the current trial of subsidised access to Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) throughout Queensland including in regional and remote areas. Labor will focus on at risk populations and will work with the Federal Government through a coordinated national health strategy to prevent HIV and to include Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- 6.47 Labor will provide specific harm-reduction programs addressing problematic drinking, smoking and recreational drug use in the at-risk community, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning people.
- 6.48 Labor will move to act to prevent the professional registration of any person who offers or proposes to offer reparative therapy as an approach to responding to same-sex attraction and/or gender dysphoria.
- 6.49 Labor will ensure that pre-hospital patient care will be an integral part of the Queensland health system model of care, coordinating relationships between the ambulance service and public and private health care providers.

# Chapter 7

**Building**

**Connected**

**Communities**

## LABOR VALUES

- 7.1 Building communities that are liveable requires foresight, good planning, and provision of the services that people need in their local area. The policy areas of planning, local government, housing, transport and communications have obvious interconnections and all contribute to the quality of lifestyle enjoyed by Queenslanders.
- 7.2 As we deal with the challenges brought by ongoing growth in Queensland, we need to ensure that people can easily access employment, whether they do so by travelling to work or by telecommuting. Good planning and infrastructure provision can make commutes to and from work faster and more efficient, leaving more time for Queenslanders to spend with their family. The provision of high speed broadband will enable Queenslanders to embrace more flexible work options and to work and access services from home.
- 7.3 The provision of the best possible transport and telecommunications infrastructure where and when it is needed can drive the economic growth opportunities of the future.
- Queensland residents and businesses benefit from a transport network that operates efficiently and moves people and goods quickly. The role of public transport is critical in connecting people with employment and recreational activities. Our communities will benefit from increasing the amenity of walking and cycling to become increasingly viable commuting options.
- 7.4 Labor has a vision for a Queensland where the integration of policy objectives in these areas is the first priority of government, not an afterthought.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 7.5 Labor partnered with all levels of government to deliver more than 7000 new social housing dwellings from 2008 to 2011, providing homes for more than 24,000 people.
- 7.6 Labor established the Urban Land Development Authority, which it rolled out across the state to deliver affordable homes for Queenslanders.
- 7.7 Labor delivered an integrated planning system that ensured all impacts of development are properly and thoroughly assessed.
- 7.8 Labor introduced statutory regional planning, which limited urban sprawl and protected the majority of metropolitan areas from urban development.
- 7.9 Labor legislated a new *Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld)*, which placed ecologically sustainable development at the core of development planning and assessment.
- 7.10 Labor reformed infrastructure charges to reduce the upfront cost of new housing.
- 7.11 Labor delivered integrated land-use planning with infrastructure planning for the first time, through the South-East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program and the Queensland Infrastructure Plan.

- 7.12 Labor supported regional growth and development through the first Queensland Regionalisation Strategy.
- 7.13 Labor demonstrated nation-leading disaster-rebuilding and resilience strategies through the establishment of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.
- 7.14 Labor delivered a more sustainable local government sector for Queensland by amalgamating unsustainable Councils, enabling them to achieve better economies of size and scale.
- 7.15 Labor transformed and modernised our great state. This is especially evident in the vastly improved transport network that Queensland Labor has delivered right across the state.

New roads, railway lines, busways and cycleways and rail trails are all evidence of record investment in a better network.

- 7.16 Labor invested significantly in public transport and infrastructure to support an expanded and multi-modal public transport system. Key achievements include:
  - ▶ designing and rolling out the Go Card system, the envy of other states
  - ▶ delivering 64 new trains – the largest expansion of the CityTrain network since electrification – and commencing the procurement of a significant increase in passenger trains through the Next Generation Rollingstock project
  - ▶ building the new railway line to Richlands, the first new spur line in generations, and commencing the extension to Springfield
  - ▶ delivering the Moreton Bay Rail Link, together with Federal Labor
  - ▶ extending rail on the Gold Coast through the Robina to Varsity Lakes rail extension
  - ▶ delivering Stage 1 and commencing Stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail project
  - ▶ delivering over 20kms of busways, including the South-East, Northern and Eastern Busways throughout Brisbane.
  - ▶ delivered cheaper fares and greater concessions through the Fairer Fares package.
- 7.17 For a state as large and decentralised as Queensland, safe and reliable roads are critical. In government, Queensland Labor heavily invested in road infrastructure in regional Queensland including key projects such as:
  - ▶ Bruce Highway improvements – in the five years to 2012, Queensland and Federal Labor Governments invested \$1.9 billion to upgrade the Bruce Highway including improvements between Ingham and Innisfail and Cooroy to Curra
  - ▶ Bundaberg Ring Road
  - ▶ Forgan Bridge in Mackay
  - ▶ Houghton Highway between Brisbane and Redcliffe
  - ▶ Douglas Arterial Duplication of the Townsville Ring Road



- ▶ Townsville Port Access Road.

7.18 In South-East Queensland, key achievements by Queensland Labor in government include:

- ▶ building the Tugun Bypass
- ▶ building the second Gateway Bridge and widening the Gateway Motorway from Nudgee to the Pacific Motorway
- ▶ upgrading the Sunshine Motorway
- ▶ upgrading the Centenary Highway
- ▶ improving access to Brisbane airport through Airport Link and upgrade to the airport roundabout
- ▶ building 75 kilometres of dedicated bike infrastructure across Brisbane.

7.19 Labor has signed contracts to build the Gateway Upgrade North, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Exit 54 on the Pacific Motorway, major road projects for the Commonwealth Games, and announced new funding for a major Western Roads upgrade package of roadworks and drought affected areas, and restored Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funding, that had been slashed by the LNP, for local government roads.

7.20 Labor has committed to improving the Pacific Motorway (M1), the highest trafficked road in Queensland:

- ▶ delivered \$47.4 million for the upgrade of the Coomera Interchange (Exit 54)
- ▶ allocated \$44 million to upgrade the M1 between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes
- ▶ committed \$42 million to upgrade the southbound merge between the Gateway and Pacific motorways at Eight Mile Plains, including installing additional lanes.

7.21 Through the Accelerated Works Program, Labor has fast-tracked projects such as upgrades to the Vines Creek Bridges in Mackay, safety works on the Bruce Highway and the construction of a heavy vehicle decoupling facility in Townsville, to deliver job security and improved infrastructure in the regions.

7.22 Labor has improved the safety of Queenslanders on our roads, appointing Queensland's first Road Safety Minister, who has overseen the development of the Queensland Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan. Implementation has included holding the Co-Lab Youth Innovation Summit, a suite of improvements to motorcycle licensing, and installing 181 flashing lights in school zones in 2015-2016, bringing the state-wide total to 643.

## HOUSING

### LABOR BELIEFS

7.23 Access to safe, secure and sustainable housing – a place to call home – is a basic right of all Queenslanders.

- 7.24 Government intervention, through direct provision of housing products and services, is required for those who are unable to obtain safe, secure and sustainable housing in the private market. Government directly influences private and community housing sectors through the development and implementation of housing legislation and policy that provides housing options, products, services and pathways for all Queenslanders.
- 7.25 Labor recognises that home ownership will continue to be a goal for many Queenslanders across the state. Labor supports this goal, including the development of specific housing products and services for low and middle-income earners.
- 7.26 Queenslanders that require access to public housing and other housing products and services should be able to access these wherever they live in the state.
- 7.27 Ongoing effort must be made across government to reduce homelessness. The focus of homelessness must be to support those at risk of experiencing or overcoming the issues that lead to homelessness. Labor believes government has a role in assisting people experiencing homelessness to live with dignity. Local communities, residents and representative groups should be involved wherever possible in decisions relating to the planning, development, management and operation of public housing.
- 7.28 Labor believes that the establishing of an independent umpire for housing is important to ensure quality housing outcomes for all Queenslanders.
- 7.29 Labor recognises that homelessness is diverse and multifaceted. Labor understands that there is:
- ▶ Primary homelessness, which is experienced by people without conventional accommodation
  - ▶ Secondary homelessness, which is experienced by people who frequently move from one temporary shelter to another
  - ▶ Tertiary homelessness, which is experienced by people staying in accommodation that falls below minimum community standards
- Labor policies and programs should be aimed at reducing these categories of homelessness and the underlying systemic issues.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

### **Assistance to Tenants**

- 7.30 Labor will continue to support all types of renters across the state by ensuring that there are legislative protections in place and avenues available to seek independent support, guidance and advocacy including right of appeal against listing on tenant databases.
- 7.31 Labor will work with all levels of government, the private and community sectors to develop a comprehensive housing pathway for Queenslanders.
- 7.32 Labor will review the private rental housing system to encourage lessors to provide for longer tenure options for tenants, including the introduction of ‘prescribed grounds for eviction’.

- 7.33 Labor will introduce legislation that will provide additional consumer protection to older Queenslanders living in retirement villages. These changes will see fairer exit and reinstatement processes, as well as standard form contracts, giving residents peace of mind, and legal and financial security.
- 7.34 Labor will establish an independent Housing Ombudsman to provide a clear avenue for independent advice and assessment of any housing-related complaints.

## **Housing Liveability and Design**

- 7.35 Labor recognises that some groups in the community have specific housing needs. Labor will research the extent and scope of this problem and tailor housing programs and develop accommodation types that recognise and cater to these specific needs.
- 7.36 Labor acknowledges that with an ageing population and the specific needs of people is changing the way we need to plan and design for future housing need in Queensland. Labor will continue to actively promote the adoption of Liveable Housing Design principles across the housing industry to achieve greater accessibility and universal design in housing across Queensland.
- 7.37 Labor recognises the need to target housing for vulnerable women who may be experiencing domestic and family violence.
- 7.38 Labor recognises the need for housing across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and commits to developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing strategy, identifying public housing stock in urban, regional and remote locations.

## **Funding and Innovative Housing Finance**

- 7.39 Labor will support the National Affordable Housing Agreement as the mechanism for ensuring that adequate Commonwealth and state funds are guaranteed for secure and affordable housing programs.
- 7.40 Labor will work with the private and community sectors, including the housing finance sector, to explore sustainable financing models that improve the affordability of housing across Queensland.
- 7.41 Labor will encourage financial institutions to provide finance for innovative housing development proposals.
- 7.42 Labor will partner with the private and community sectors to develop innovative housing solutions aiming at increasing housing across the state.
- 7.43 Labor will develop a range of packages that will support people to achieve their housing goals, whether it be to move out of home for the first time, enter the private rental market, purchase their own home or move into seniors living.
- 7.44 Labor will support moves to target home owners with assistance, tax relief mechanisms and similar grants towards low income households.

## Housing Cost, Regulation and Development of Affordable Housing

- 7.45 Labor will monitor the adequacy of stocks of serviced land throughout Queensland to avoid price escalation caused by shortages.
- 7.46 Labor will regularly review building codes and regulations, housing and development standards and private regulations through developer's covenants with a view to removing obsolete and inconsistent requirements that impose unnecessary costs without significantly enhancing amenities.
- 7.47 Labor will assist in the development of innovative housing projects using sustainable and liveable planning and design methods while maintaining standards.
- 7.48 Labor will amend legislation to provide affordable housing across the state in areas of housing need where planning changes and urban renewal permit redevelopment.
- 7.49 Labor will partner with and facilitate industry and public superannuation funds to facilitate the provision of affordable housing on previously unreleased State Government land through prudential investment of funds, and the extent of this investment is to be reported annually to members.
- 7.50 Labor recognises the need for social and affordable housing to be accessible to Queenslanders wherever they live. Labor will explore the introduction of inclusionary zoning that requires a minimum of 10% of all residential development to be set aside for social and affordable housing.

## Public Housing

- 7.51 Labor will continue to increase housing stock.
- 7.52 Labor will increase the public housing stock through a combination of public tender and direct construction, acquisition through spot purchase, restoration and rehabilitation of existing structurally sound dwellings, and promoting redevelopment renewal programs.
- 7.53 Labor will continue to investigate opportunities to enter into innovative housing projects such as public private partnerships and joint ventures that deliver value to the people of Queensland.
- 7.54 Labor will give consideration to installing solar panels on and implementing improvements to the energy and water efficiency on public housing.

# TRANSPORT

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 7.55 Labor believes in a transport system that is:
  - ▶ a public good, to be provided in the public interest to all Queenslanders, with community service obligation payments where necessary
  - ▶ safe for users and for those who build, operate and maintain it

- ▶ sustainable, and considers environmental, social and health impacts
- ▶ affordable and accessible for all members of the community
- ▶ efficient, integrated, connected and reliable, and supports growth of the economy
- ▶ well planned in consultation with the community, with corridors secured in advance of development
- ▶ facilitates and contributes to the just transition to a low carbon economy
- ▶ encouraging of walking and cycling as a commuting option through increasing the application of passive sun protection.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

### **Policy and Planning**

- 7.56 Labor will deliver integrated regional transport plans in conjunction with regional land use plans in all urban areas across Queensland.
- 7.57 Labor will implement targets to increase public and active transport usage.
- 7.58 Labor will consider demand management measures where appropriate and equitable.
- 7.59 Labor will consider increased penalties for wilful damage to transport infrastructure, noting the safety and efficiency costs.
- 7.60 Labor recognises the particular vulnerability of public transport workers to physical assault and will improve safety and security. Labor will increase penalties for people found guilty of assaulting public transport workers.

### **Public Transport**

- 7.61 Labor will maintain Queensland Rail and Brisbane Transport as vertically integrated, publicly owned providers of public transport services.
- 7.62 Labor will build an inner-city rail solution consistent with the Cross-River Rail capacity outcome as part of a broader vision to revitalise and transform rail services. It will increase frequency and provide more express services. It will also deliver new links, including to Flagstone, Ripley, Coolangatta, Maroochydore and through the North-West Rail Link along the Trouts Road corridor, consistent with the SEQ Connecting 2031 transport strategy.
- 7.63 Labor will extend Brisbane's world-class busway network, including completing the Eastern and Northern Busways, CoastConnect on the Sunshine Coast, and rolling out more high frequency routes and bus priority lanes.
- 7.64 Labor will complete the extension of the Springfield to Ipswich line and provide appropriate infrastructure to support the line's functionality.
- 7.65 Labor will complete the Gold Coast light rail from Helensvale to Coolangatta and consider the feasibility of light rail in other corridors.

- 7.66 Labor will upgrade public transport stops and station infrastructure to ensure safety, accessibility, amenity and additional park and ride facilities for those who use and operate the system.
- 7.67 Labor will systematically remove the most dangerous level crossings in Queensland.
- 7.68 Labor will maintain public transport concessions.
- 7.69 Labor will continue to subsidise and improve public transport services, including in provincial centres, with a funding requirement being world's best practice by contractors.
- 7.70 Labor will ensure that all communities have access to public transport services to connect them to the rest of Queensland, including TravelTrain, long distance bus and air services.
- 7.71 Labor supports the implementation of flexible public transport options to increase active public transport usage in regional centres, to deliver better public transport services and ensure more productive use of state assisted transport funding.
- 7.72 Labor will release regular public reports against both performance measures and funding provided for all subsidised public transport services.

## **Taxis**

- 7.73 Labor will maintain regulation of the taxi industry to ensure it meets high standards of safety, service quality, responsiveness and accessibility.
- 7.74 Labor will consider options to enable competing taxi companies in a single market to cooperate where there is benefit for users.
- 7.75 Labor will investigate the use of taxis to provide public transport where other services are not viable.
- 7.76 Labor will roll out additional secure taxi ranks where required.
- 7.77 Labor will ensure that all taxi districts have adequate provision of wheelchair accessible taxis, including providing incentives for conversion, and it will implement a passenger lift fee.
- 7.78 Labor will regularly publish taxi performance measures where government subsidies are provided.

## **Active Transport**

- 7.79 Labor will expand the dedicated cycling network along key corridors, including disused rail lines, and ensure that active transport facilities are included in all new and upgraded roads.
- 7.80 Labor will pursue measures to ensure end of trip facilities are included in new buildings where appropriate, to encourage active transport.
- 7.81 Labor will encourage greater use of public and active transport for school travel.
- 7.82 Labor will investigate the implementation of shading at key pedestrian waiting points and the viability of shaded pedestrian walkways as a complementary transport and recreation system.



## Freight

- 7.83 Labor will implement strategies to increase mode share for rail freight on defined strategic rail freight networks.
- 7.84 Labor understands there is community concern regarding coal dust adjacent to rail corridors in Brisbane.
- 7.85 Labor supports an independent, scientific review of mitigation treatments and will implement best practices and support further technological improvements in this area.
- 7.86 Labor supports consultation with the relevant industry, union and community groups as the coal industry grows in Queensland.
- 7.87 Labor will develop and publish a plan for the progressive priority upgrade of the North Coast Rail Line, to improve safety, efficiency and reliability.
- 7.88 Labor will support construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and Gowrie to Grandchester rail line, with other levels of government and the private sector.
- 7.89 Labor will invest in removing conflicts between passenger and rail freight movements where they share the same corridor.
- 7.90 Labor will enable construction of the Surat Basin Railway with appropriate provision for its potential future role as part of an inland railway.

## Roads

- 7.91 Labor will plan, design and build roads which are fit for purpose, future-proofed, and to standards which meet the needs of road users and the wider community.
- 7.92 Labor understands that road infrastructure is critical to sustaining regional and rural communities and will therefore ensure that a fair proportion of road funding is allocated to regional Queensland.
- 7.93 Labor will always engage in public consultation and integrated planning approaches, to new road works.
- 7.94 Labor will continue to provide fair and just compensation for private property owners directly and adversely affected by road construction.
- 7.95 Labor will develop and publish a plan for the progressive priority upgrade of the Bruce Highway and the construction and upgrade of other major roads which will unlock Queensland's economic potential, such as the Warrego Highway, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Ipswich Motorway.
- 7.96 Labor will review and consider reforms to calculating motor vehicle registration.

## Safety and Security

- 7.97 Labor will implement strategies based on world's best practice, and thorough research to reduce the road toll and improve road safety.
- 7.98 Labor will trial mobile cameras to monitor school crossing hot spots where crossing supervisors have had close misses or injuries from vehicles not stopping.



- 7.99 Labor will expand the coverage of security services and officers across the public transport network to improve safety for users, constructors, operators and maintainers.
- 7.100 Labor will regulate the hours of work for train crew to ensure safety and investigate regulation of hours of work for other transport operators.
- 7.101 Labor will maintain and strictly enforce chain of responsibility legislation for the trucking industry and implement a regulatory system to provide adequate and ongoing training to heavy vehicle operators to an accredited standard.
- 7.102 Labor will prioritise and progressively deliver grade separations and other safety measures at rail level crossings.

### **Maritime**

- 7.103 Labor will work closely with the Australian Government to ensure the highest standards of safety and environmental protection at sea.
- 7.104 Labor will continue to roll out infrastructure improvements for recreational boat users.

### **Australian Government**

- 7.105 Labor will lobby the Australian Government to provide increased transport funding for Queensland based on the decentralised nature of the state and to reduce congestion, with a particular emphasis on the Bruce Highway, Gold Coast Light Rail, Cross River Rail, the Pacific Motorway, Ipswich Motorway and North Coast Rail Line, without asset recycling.
- 7.106 Labor will lobby the Australian Government to maintain the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal as an important safety initiative and in the absence of Commonwealth regulation pursue enhanced State Government regulation to provide for safe rates in the transport industry in Queensland.
- 7.107 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to proceed with a premium performance and 21st century alignment of inland rail through to Brisbane.
- 7.108 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to include purchase of public transport tickets in salary packaging arrangements.

## **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY**

### **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 7.109 Labor supports the provision of a National Broadband Network that will underpin the digital economy in Queensland by providing high speed broadband services for residential and business use. These services will:
  - ▶ future proof broadband infrastructure in terms of increased speed and increased demand

- ▶ provide broadband services on an equitable basis regardless of where people live, the socio-economic status of their suburb, or regional location
  - ▶ support telecommunications competition reforms that provide multiple service providers open access to broadband infrastructure
  - ▶ provide sufficient bi-directional bandwidth and quality of service to effectively deliver real time services for health, education, broadcasting and business use.
- 7.110 Labor recognises that the inclusion of all sectors of the community in the digital economy must be a key element of plans to tackle unemployment and underemployment and to create a thriving economy. Digital technologies and the NBN open up new employment opportunities by enabling the formation of micro-businesses, social enterprises and e-traders, throughout the whole state.
- 7.111 An efficient, integrated communications network underpins the delivery of government, business, health, education, transport, electricity and information services.
- 7.112 Broadband access and internet services should be available on an equitable and affordable basis.
- 7.113 Labor reaffirms its commitment to open government based on citizen-focused services and accessible, transparent data.
- 7.114 Labor believes all infrastructure and assets that are owned by government entities (including electricity distributors) and are used to provide telecommunications services should remain in public ownership.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

### **Connected Communities**

- 7.115 Labor supports the formation of community and industry alliances to aggregate demand and funding for networks that extend the reach of the NBN in regional Queensland. Labor also encourages major telecommunications carriers, electricity transmission providers and road and rail authorities to cooperate in the development of open access fibre optic and wireless communications infrastructure.
- 7.116 Labor proposes that a Digital Economy Strategy should support:
- ▶ the creation of Connected Neighbourhood Charters and funding partnerships for developing regional digital “blueprints” or “masterplans”
  - ▶ inclusive and affordable access to digital technologies, devices and services for low income earners or unemployed people who most need to access new employment and skills opportunities
  - ▶ investment programs in ICT research and development.
- 7.117 Labor supports and encourages initiatives that:
- ▶ foster innovation in sectors including the creative industries, tourism, and online provision of goods and services, as well as the development of intelligent transport systems

- ▶ promote digital inclusion, ensuring that all residents can access the online services, technologies, applications, content and information that they need to engage in the digital, connected community
  - ▶ improve the health and safety of communities through better coordination of health, emergency, police and volunteers in times of community crisis such as natural disasters.
- 7.118 Labor will seek from telecommunications carriers Community Service Obligations that guarantee the availability and quality of voice, broadband, mobile phone and payphone services, and reliability, connection and repair times.
- 7.119 Labor will seek opportunities to unlock Queensland Government telecommunication assets to improve access to digital capability for Queenslanders, particularly those in regional and remote communities.

## Participation in the Digital Economy

- 7.120 Labor supports services designed to make government data available to the public, in line with the principle recognised in the *Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld)* that government data is a public resource that should, by default, be available for access and reuse. Government data (such as meteorological, geosciences and agricultural data) should be:
- ▶ provided under permissive copyright licences such as Creative Commons
  - ▶ made available in open data formats that facilitate reuse and are not locked into a specific product or technology
  - ▶ provided in a computer-readable form so that it can be analysed or used to create new applications and services
  - ▶ supplied with relevant metadata (for example, date of creation, author, keywords).
- 7.121 Labor supports efforts to ensure that a range of members of the community, which is as broad as possible and specifically includes people with disabilities and special needs, has affordable access to up to date computing and communication services, including through public libraries, schools and community organisations.
- 7.122 Labor is committed to ensuring that websites, digital content and services are designed in compliance with accessibility standards so that the widest range of people (including those with impaired sight, hearing or mobility) can readily access the internet, use government services, locate information, communicate, and engage in transactions online.
- 7.123 Labor supports the strengthening of privacy protections using legal, technical and administrative safeguards for individuals in the online environment, through prohibitions on intrusion by government and business into individuals' personal privacy.
- 7.124 Labor supports the coordinated delivery of citizen-focused healthcare services by private, public, community and national providers, supported by access to electronic patient and provider data, and health information services.

## Investment and Training in the Digital Economy

- 7.125 Labor believes that a central agency should review and advise on the procurement of government ICT, ensure that duplication, wastage, delays and inefficiency are eliminated, and through improvements in government service delivery maximise the overall financial value and benefit of ICT to the community.
- 7.126 Labor believes that an appropriately skilled workforce is required for growth of the digital economy. Labor supports the development of a workforce strategy that will:
- ▶ ensure appropriate courses are available in schools, Adult Education and TAFE
  - ▶ develop industry-based training and mentoring programs (including within public sector agencies) designed to enable IT graduates to gain industry experience
  - ▶ provide increased opportunities for training for teachers in the application of ICT in learning and teaching, to enhance their capacities to teach ICT literacy and skills.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### LABOR BELIEFS

- 7.127 Labor reaffirms its commitment to the principles of local government, namely:
- ▶ transparent and effective processes and decision-making in the public interest;
  - ▶ sustainable development and management of assets and infrastructure and delivery of effective services;
  - ▶ democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement;
  - ▶ good governance; and
  - ▶ ethical and legal behaviour of councillors and council employees.
- 7.128 Local government is the level of government closest to the community. Every day it affects the lives of Queenslanders – our local services, where we live, and the look and feel of our communities.
- Local government decision-making must be open and inclusive of local communities. Labor supports the use of technology in supporting transparency of local government processes and decision-making.
- 7.129 Local government is a genuine partner in the Australian governmental system.
- 7.130 The potential of local government is best realised when the roles and responsibilities of local government are constitutionally recognised.
- 7.131 The State Government has a responsibility to consult with local governments on matters that affect local communities.

- 7.132 Labor will ensure that local government elections are conducted in a fair and democratic fashion.
- 7.133 Local governments should be adequately resourced to ensure they can fulfil the functions required of them by the State Government and by local residents. Where funding is provided by State Government, resourcing should prioritise in-sourcing (i.e. through direct employment and without outsourcing) wherever possible.
- 7.134 The State Government has a responsibility to ensure that the state has a system of local government that is efficient, effective and accountable, and that provides fairness and equity for local government employees.
- 7.135 Aboriginal shire councils and Torres Strait Island-based councils have extraordinary obligations to their constituents and require particular support from the State Government to meet the intent of the principles and objectives of the Social Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 7.136 Local governments should maintain a competent permanent workforce at all levels to ensure continuity of operation and the most efficient and effective provision of local government services.
- 7.137 Local government utilities such as water supply, sewerage, waste management and transport should not be privatised or contracted out. Local government water retail and distribution should continue to be wholly operated by local government and owned by the people.
- 7.138 Local governments must ultimately be accountable to their electors for their activities. A Labor government in Queensland will refrain from interfering in local government operations unless there is evidence of gross mismanagement, illegal activity or the council has acted outside its powers under the relevant Acts.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

### **Structure, accountability and operation of Local Government**

- 7.139 Delivery and management of local government services such as (but not limited to) libraries, customer service, planning, local laws and accounts should not be privatised or contracted out. Local government services should continue to be delivered directly by local government employees and with a commitment to supporting the local community.
- 7.140 Any services or utilities which would otherwise ordinarily be delivered by local government but are required to be delivered by private entities should be obliged to report against the same transparency and accountability requirements as local government for the delivery of those services.
- 7.141 Local governments are, more often than not, the first to respond to natural disasters. Labor sees local governments as a key partner in emergency management.
- 7.142 Labor believes local government's important role must be recognised, supported and funded, including for clean-up and reconstruction efforts, as well as being part of discussions with the Federal Government in terms of natural disaster funding distributions and mitigation.

- 7.143 Labor will maintain the recognition of local government in the *Constitution of Queensland 2001 (Qld)* and guarantee the continuation of a local government system in Queensland.
- 7.144 Labor will promote and facilitate regular discussion, consultation and negotiation with local governments.
- 7.145 Labor will allow local government autonomy over matters that are the province of local government.
- 7.146 Labor will formalise regular meetings with representatives of the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Aboriginal Local Government Association of Queensland, unions of employees and relevant State Government departments.
- 7.147 Labor will implement coordinated planning models for Indigenous communities' programme funding and reporting. These plans must engage with all government agencies, as well as community organisations and councils, and include effective reporting timeframes and consultation.
- 7.148 Labor will ensure local government electoral laws are fair and equitable, that electoral boundaries are appropriate to the communities they serve, and that these boundaries are based on a 'shared community of interest'. Labor has a commitment to a ward system with single-member representation and full preferential voting where possible, and a preference for proportional representation where multi-member divisions are necessary.
- 7.149 Labor will provide for an independent review process of local government size and boundaries to ensure that existing configurations of councils are appropriate for the communities they serve.
- 7.150 Where multi-member divisions are necessary, and when the policy of proportional representation for such council elections is implemented, Labor will seek to replace by-elections by appointing through count back the failed candidate with the highest number of votes who is willing to accept the appointment. Proportional representation vacancies should also be filled via count back.
- 7.151 Labor will ensure that the wages and conditions of local government workers are fair and protected by ensuring that local government industrial relations regulation remains in the Queensland jurisdiction.
- 7.152 Labor will provide for appropriate remuneration to elected members of local councils for the time they have spent in service.
- 7.153 Labor will protect the right of Crown and statutory authority employees to nominate for local government elections.
- 7.154 Labor will legislate to ensure that public sector and local government employees who nominate for election to state or federal parliament or local government are entitled to a leave of absence to pursue their election and if it is necessary for them to resign their employment for constitutional reasons in order to seek election and they are not elected, to be reinstated without loss of continuity.
- 7.155 Labor will maintain fixed, four-year terms for local governments. Casual vacancies, except in the final year of term, should go to by-election.



- 7.156 Labor will require a Pecuniary Interest Register be maintained by all local government authorities and will extend public disclosure requirements for State Government candidates to include local government candidates. Such a register must contain the dates, amounts and sources of political donations.
- 7.157 Labor will amend legislation to ensure that councils are open and accountable, ensuring that Right to Information principles apply to all local governments including Brisbane City Council.
- 7.158 Labor prefers council ownership and council management of local government public utilities, particularly water and sewerage. Where council assets have been transferred to public corporations, Labor expects that councils should always retain responsibility through mandatory occupation of governing board positions. Councillors should occupy governing board positions commensurate with a council's level of equity in corporatized utilities.
- 7.159 Labor will work actively with employers to address disability workforce shortages, particularly in rural, regional and remotes areas, by supporting improved remuneration and conditions for disability workers, and investing in increased training and development initiatives.
- 7.160 Labor will require all tendering for council services and projects to be subject to open advertising/assessment processes. The principle of best value for money should be the prime criteria for assessment.
- 7.161 Labor will continue to support the use of council day labour in preference to the use of contractors for disaster recovery and reconstruction work. Further, Labor will support the permanent funding of such work through the Federal Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).
- 7.162 Labor will support the use of council plant and equipment in preference to the use of contractors for disaster recovery and reconstruction work where it shows value for money.  
  
Further, Labor will support the permanent funding of such work through the Federal Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).
- 7.163 Labor will continue to advocate on behalf of Queensland communities for national Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements funding model that maintains the current level of federal and state funding and provides a greater focus on mitigation and resilience.

## Finance

- 7.164 Labor will continue to provide an adequate level of funding to assist local authorities to perform their functions, particularly in the area of capital works for water, sewerage, drainage and roadworks projects and major sporting and recreational facilities.
- 7.165 Labor will ensure local government has access to low cost loans through such instrumentalities as the Queensland Treasury Corporation.
- 7.166 Labor will provide incentives to local governments to pursue innovative and environmentally sensitive infrastructure projects.
- 7.167 Labor will assist local governments in resourcing activities related to the responsibilities that the State Government has delegated to local governments.



- 7.168 Labor will provide incentives for local governments to introduce policies and practices that facilitate a better balance for employees between work and family life.

## **Community Development and Participation**

- 7.169 Labor will ensure local government continues to maintain responsibility for provision of key community and development services, including libraries, planning and inspection services (e.g. plumbing, building).
- 7.170 Labor will encourage local authorities to maximise community participation in local government matters through formal consultative processes.
- 7.171 Labor will encourage local authorities to offer services responsive to different cultural values and expectations.
- 7.172 Labor will support and encourage local governments to provide and maintain an appropriate public transport system.

# **URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING POLICY**

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 7.173 Labor believes effective urban and regional planning is critical to Queensland's liveability, sustainability and prosperity. We believe in a planning system that is:
- ▶ fair and flexible, to effectively manage the challenges of urban growth and rural decline
  - ▶ open and accountable, to ensure communities and neighbourhoods can fully participate in the planning and development decisions that affect their local areas
  - ▶ integrated and efficient, to ensure confidence and certainty of decision making
  - ▶ future focussed, with an emphasis on long-term strategies that deliver sustainable development
  - ▶ grounded in local communities, to recognise and support the central role of local government in land-use planning and decision-making.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

### **Advancing our Cities Agenda through Inter-Governmental Collaboration Opportunities**

- 7.174 Labor will play a critical role in setting and coordinating the delivery of the Queensland Government's Cities Agenda, to work towards better alignment of local, state and national priorities to influence and reflect the development of 'City Deals' between the Australian Government, Queensland Government and relevant local governments.

- 7.175 Labor will facilitate and foster genuine collaborative partnerships across all levels of government the private sector and the community, through the adoption of ‘City Deals’ or similar instruments, to capitalise on strategic advantages and opportunities in each city promoting new investment, economic growth and prosperity.
- 7.176 Labor will recognise the importance of our cities and regional centres to the economic and social fabric of Queensland, through a forward-looking cities agenda focussed on the integration of land use planning, innovative infrastructure financing options and productivity aimed at eliminating bottlenecks, building capacity and boosting productivity as a way to facilitate economic and jobs growth.
- 7.177 Labor recognises that if we want our cities to reach their full potential and compete with their global counterparts, then we need to invest in society by transitioning to a knowledge based economy, and ensuring liveable, sustainable and well-designed communities.
- 7.178 Labor will encourage the Australian Government to restore the Major Cities Unit and re-engage with the National Urban Policy, particularly in terms of supporting strategic trunk infrastructure investments, providing evidence based policy through “State of Australian Cities” reporting to assist makers and championing urban design excellence.

### **Ensuring Growth delivers Liveability, Sustainability and Prosperity**

- 7.179 Labor will restore a balanced planning system that is focussed on the three core objectives of liveability, sustainability and prosperity.
- 7.180 Labor will maintain and strengthen the nexus between land-use planning and infrastructure planning, so that infrastructure and essential services are in place as communities grow.
- 7.181 Labor will ensure planning considers the full range of needs for community formation, including sufficient land supply for residential, employment, retail, educational, community facilities and open space uses.
- 7.182 Labor will ensure that high-quality urban design and place-making underpins new development, with a strong emphasis on public and active transport to support more compact and walkable communities.
- 7.183 Labor will develop and implement healthy planning principles that recognise the important link between community design and health outcomes.
- 7.184 Labor will establish planning principles for including pedestrian shade structures in new commercial and public buildings and major commercial and public building refurbishments.
- 7.185 Labor will establish appropriate protections for sites with national, state or local heritage values.

### **Supporting Integrated and Strategic Planning**

- 7.186 Labor will deliver for each region of Queensland new statutory regional plans that effectively integrate land-use planning and infrastructure planning.

- 7.187 Labor will publish regular reports, supported by measurable data, on the progress of implementing each regional plan, as well as on their social, economic and environmental impacts and benefits.
- 7.188 Labor will establish genuinely consultative and collaborative decision-making structures that ensure local government and local communities can participate effectively in the process of regional planning.
- 7.189 Labor will work with local government to ensure that planning schemes appropriately respond to the risks posed by natural disasters and climate change as well as support communities to transition to a low carbon economy.
- 7.190 Labor will genuinely integrate the state’s referral agency jurisdiction through a reformed single assessment agency function.
- 7.191 Labor will appropriately consider local government planning strategies for the use of Crown land.
- 7.192 Labor will ensure that all applications for resource developments are subject to a social impact assessment process to ensure that such developments proceed in a socially responsible and sustainable manner.
- 7.193 Labor believes that public scrutiny of, and the right to object to, resource and urban development proposals is an important part of an open, transparent and accountable democracy. Labor will maintain statutory notification rights and public objection rights for resource and urban development proposals.
- 7.194 Labor will implement administrative arrangements that ensure the Department of Infrastructure and Planning is the principal planning agency of government.

## **Delivering Effective Urban Growth Management for South-East Queensland**

- 7.195 Labor will deliver a planning approach based on “smart growth” principles, including focussing development around activity centres, employment corridors, and public transport hubs.
- 7.196 Labor will make strategic government land available for transit-oriented development in areas near major rail and busway stations, where this does not compromise future corridor needs.
- 7.197 Labor will continue to refocus Economic Development Queensland with a strategic government land organisation that works to address the challenges of housing supply, housing affordability and housing choice.
- 7.198 Labor will protect and enhance South-East Queensland’s green space through retaining a statutory urban footprint.
- 7.199 Labor will prioritise development in areas serviced by existing public transport, while ensuring that new development is in appropriate locations that respond to community expectations.

## **Providing Better Planning for Regional and Rural Queensland**

- 7.200 Labor will support rural and regional local councils to undertake planning that responds to the diverse needs of their local communities.

- 7.201 Labor will recognise the geographic decentralisation of Queensland and support planning for the further regionalisation of government services and agencies.
- 7.202 Labor will support rural, regional and peri-urban councils to examine strategic regional growth issues, including lot sizes, land fragmentation, rural-urban interface issues and the preservation of strategic and good quality agricultural land.

### **Ensuring Transparent and Accountable Development Assessment**

- 7.203 Labor will review the *Planning Act 2016 (Qld)* to further embed the best practice model developed by the Development Assessment Forum.
- 7.204 Labor will expand the use of online tools that support community understanding of planning and development assessment, including integrated mapping, online lodgements, and new engagement tools.
- 7.205 Labor will explore opportunities for using new technologies in assessing development proposals, including use of 3D tools.
- 7.206 Labor will maintain and defend the “own costs” jurisdiction of the Planning and Environment Court and ensure submitter appeal rights.
- 7.207 Labor will maintain and defend adequate funding for independent, community-based planning advice and advocacy organisations, such as the Environmental Defender’s Office.

# Chapter 8

**Caring and**

**Secure Communities**

Queensland Labor recognises multiple dimensions that contribute to creating and maintaining caring and secure communities. These include Arts and Culture, Democratic Institutions, Law, Justice and Community Safety, Violence Against Women, Child Protection, Community and Disability Services, needs associated with age for Older and Young Queenslanders, and Sport and Recreation.

## OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.1 Labor believes in a Queensland that is a free, democratic society, built upon the principles of Westminster Responsible Government and respect for the separation of powers.
- 8.2 Labor believes that Queenslanders are entitled to have a government that is accountable and as open as possible. Queenslanders deserve a government they can trust.
- 8.3 Queensland's system of government, constitution and our laws must reflect the dignity and fundamental rights of citizens.

### LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.4 Since 1989, Labor Governments in Queensland have modernised Queensland's government, legislation and judicial system. Starting with the recommendations of the Fitzgerald Report, Labor delivered a system of government in which Queenslanders can have confidence.
- 8.5 Labor made government in Queensland more open and accountable by:
  - ▶ providing open Right to Information legislation
  - ▶ introducing independent oversight of government, including an independent Crime and Misconduct Commission, Auditor-General and Ombudsman
  - ▶ ensuring disclosure of political donations of \$1,000 or more
  - ▶ regulating government interaction with lobbyists.
- 8.6 Labor made our Queensland parliamentary system more democratic and government more accountable by:
  - ▶ introducing independent oversight of elections and electoral redistributions
  - ▶ introducing a committee structure and estimates scrutiny to keep Queensland Governments accountable.
- 8.7 Introduced a target of 50 percent women on all government boards by 2020, and 50 percent of all new appointees to all Queensland Government bodies to be women.
- 8.8 Developed training programs for the public and private sector to increase women's leadership on government and company boards, and to conduct research around the social and economic cost the lack of women's representation does to the Queensland economy.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 8.9 Labor believes parliaments must derive their membership through a fair, democratic and transparent electoral system based on the principle of equal universal adult suffrage. Labor is committed to an electoral system consisting of:
- ▶ compulsory enrolment and voting for all Australian citizens of adult age
  - ▶ a secret ballot
  - ▶ the principle of “one vote, one value”, with electoral boundaries regularly redistributed to ensure equal representation within areas determined by geography, community and population
  - ▶ an independent electoral commission to conduct redistributions and elections
  - ▶ public funding of election campaigns and full disclosure of political donations
  - ▶ laws providing that public service and local government employees, and employees of government-owned corporations and boards who contest elections be automatically entitled to unpaid leave and, if unsuccessful, will not be disadvantaged as a result of their candidacy.
- 8.10 Labor believes parliaments, including parliamentary bodies such as committees, should have, and be accepting of, a diversity of membership, reflecting the diversity of our community – for example women, ethnic minorities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people with disabilities.
- 8.11 Labor believes in a transition to an Australian Republic, with an Australian Head of State, who can fully represent our traditions, values and aspirations as a nation.

## Integrity in Government

- 8.12 Labor believes that citizens have a Right to Information on the decisions and procedures of government and a right to access and correct where necessary information that government holds about them. Labor will ensure that costs for citizens to access information are not a barrier to Right to Information applications.
- 8.13 Labor believes in independent oversight of government actions and will support statutory office holders such as the Auditor-General, the anti-corruption watchdog and the Ombudsman.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.14 Labor will implement parliamentary processes that provide for the proper scrutiny and accountability of the executive and the public service. Labor will ensure that parliament, through estimates hearings and a bipartisan parliamentary committee system, is provided the opportunity to properly scrutinise executive government.
- 8.15 Labor will ensure that the appointments to the anti-corruption watchdog are made with bipartisan support from the parliamentary committee responsible for its oversight.



- 8.16 Labor will ensure the anti-corruption watchdog is properly resourced and focused on preventing and investigating major crime and corruption, major criminal activity and misconduct.
- 8.17 Labor recognises the importance of women in government, including in parliamentary committees, and will retain a Minister for Women, who is a woman.
- 8.18 Labor will maintain a Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Partnerships, with a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-identified senior ministerial advisory position.
- 8.19 Labor will review our Queensland’s electoral system to ensure elections are free, fair and transparent and provide the greatest opportunity to have their say. Labor will consult the Queensland community on measures to provide greater consistency on voting systems and parliamentary terms between states and with the Commonwealth, including compulsory preferential voting and four-year fixed terms.
- 8.20 Labor believes citizens must have confidence that elected representatives are acting with integrity and impartiality in government decision-making processes. Labor will build on our proud record of reform that has seen a lower disclosure threshold, banning of foreign donations and real-time donations by further limiting donations and campaign expenditure.
- 8.21 Labor will work with the Federal Government to investigate protocols and mechanisms for eligible individuals who turn 18 years of age to be automatically added to the Federal and State electoral roll.
- 8.22 Labor will ensure that compulsory preferential voting for local government elections in Queensland be introduced.

## LAW

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.23 Labor believes that all citizens, regardless of their background, circumstances or beliefs, have the right to equal and fair treatment before the law.
- 8.24 Labor is committed to a strong and independent legal system that respects and promotes the following principles:
  - ▶ the rule of law including the right to be treated equally before the law and the rights to due process and a fair trial
  - ▶ an independent, open and accessible judicial system
  - ▶ the right to liberty and security
  - ▶ freedom of thought, conscience and liberty
  - ▶ freedom of speech and expression subject to reasonable restrictions required to protect the reputation of others or to protect national security, public order, public health or public morality
  - ▶ freedom of association

- ▶ the right to protection from unlawful discrimination and harassment including on the grounds of sex, gender, gender identity, intersex status, sexual orientation, race, religion, age, disability, or status as a victim of family violence.
- 8.25 Labor believes that citizens have a right of access to justice, and is committed to ensuring citizens obtain that right through a competitive and efficient legal profession and a modern, open system of courts and tribunals.
- 8.26 Labor believes in the fundamental human rights, dignity and worth of the human person.
- 8.27 Labor recognises the importance of respectful and confidential communication and consultation between the government, the legal profession and the judiciary regarding judicial appointments and the functioning of the judiciary.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.28 Labor has improved the access of justice for Queenslanders by:
- ▶ modernising our courts and our court processes to reduce barriers to accessing justice
  - ▶ establishing the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal
  - ▶ providing for independent oversight of a modern and efficient legal profession.
- 8.29 Labor has protected the rights and dignities of Queenslanders by:
- ▶ introducing anti-discrimination legislation and removing discriminatory legislation from Queensland Laws
  - ▶ providing Queenslanders with modern laws that are inclusive, non-discriminatory and reflect the Queensland community experience.
- 8.30 Labor has prioritised reproductive justice for Queenslanders by referring the issue of modernising Queensland's laws relating to termination of pregnancy to the Queensland Law Reform Commission.
- 8.31 Labor has established a permanent round table to improve whole of government engagement with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning community.
- 8.32 Labor amended the *Adoption Act 2009 (Qld)* to allow for all couples and individuals to legally adopt.
- 8.33 Labor introduced a Bill to expunge historical convictions for non-violent adult sexual offences, including homosexual conduct, within the 55th Parliament. As part of this process, the Palaszczuk Labor Government gave a formal apology to those affected by this history in State Parliament.

## LABOR BELIEFS

### Access to Justice

- 8.34 Labor believes that all Queenslanders have a right to access justice before Queensland's courts and tribunals. Labor believes that a properly funded Legal Aid and network of Community Legal Centres is crucial to removing barriers to accessing justice.
- 8.35 Labor believes that women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with a disability and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning community, need special support to seek access to justice. Labor will continue to fund legal and justice services and interpretation services for these communities.

### The Rights of the Terminally Ill

- 8.36 Labor believes that voluntary euthanasia and assisted dying, in addition to comprehensive palliative care options, should be legally available as an option for a person of sound mind suffering from a terminal illness that has diminished their quality of life to the extent that the person requests termination of their life. Labor supports a conscience vote on the question of voluntary euthanasia and assisted dying consistent with the 1996 decision of the National Executive.

### The Right to Reproductive Autonomy

- 8.37 Labor believes that all people should be free to make their own reproductive and sexual health choices for their own bodies.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.38 Labor will promote access to justice for Queenslanders. Labor will continue to modernise our court system and ensure that barriers to justice for Queenslanders are removed.
- 8.39 Labor will ensure that Queenslanders continue to have access to a free and fair trial from an independent judiciary. Labor will respect the separation of powers and the judiciary as an independent arm of government.
- 8.40 Labor will strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, particularly in the areas of employment, family violence education, housing, public accommodation, public entertainment and recreation, state taxation, property rights, and fiscal or financial benefits.
- 8.41 Labor will review the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)* and consider extending the provisions relating to vilification to include other attributes, including sex.
- 8.42 Labor will ensure uniformity of age across laws relating to the age of consent for lawful sexual activity.
- 8.43 Labor will review Queensland law to enable class actions and to facilitate access to, and appearances by, community groups in Queensland courts.
- 8.44 Labor will provide for the protection of residential tenants and manufactured home park residents through the funding of the Tenancy Advocacy and Advice Services.

- 8.45 To ensure that all couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life do not suffer discrimination because they are not married. Labor in government will develop relationship registration legislation that will include the opportunity for couples who have a mutual commitment to a shared life to have that relationship registered and certified. This legislation will be based on a relationship recognition scheme.
- 8.46 Labor will actively pursue the decriminalisation of termination of pregnancy in Queensland and will amend the law so that all legal distinctions between termination of pregnancy and other medical procedures are abolished by repealing sections 224, 225 and 226 of the *Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld)* within the next term of government.
- Labor will be informed by the recommendations of the Queensland Law Reform Commission on the decriminalisation of termination of pregnancy.
- 8.47 Labor will reinstate the rights of Queensland workers to seek common law damages for work-related injuries.
- 8.48 Labor recognises that organised criminal networks pose a significant risk to Queensland families. Labor will repeal the existing anti-association criminal organisation laws and replace them with workable, robust laws that attack organised crime by penalising people for their criminal conduct, not for whom they associate with.
- 8.49 Labor will support justice reinvestment strategies for youth and adult offenders, to reduce correctional and youth detention centre spending, by reinvesting funds into evidence-based initiatives that reduce crime and promote community safety.
- 8.50 Labor in government will continue to restore prison programs aimed at rehabilitating prisoners and reducing recidivism, while continuing to explore and develop new and expanded opportunities.
- 8.51 Labor believes that all prisons in Queensland should have inmate to prisoner officer ratio set by Queensland Corrective Services. Prison officer and inmate safety will be the focus when setting such ratios.
- 8.52 Labor will ensure that the Criminal Code makes it a criminal offence to intentionally distribute an intimate image of another person without that person's consent, and any threat to do so, a criminal offence. Labor will advocate to all other Australian jurisdictions to enact similar or parallel legislation.
- 8.53 Labor will repeal legislation which fetters judicial discretion by imposing mandatory minimum sentences for criminal offences.
- 8.54 Labor will introduce a *Human Rights Act* for Queensland based on the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*.
- 8.55 Labor commits to reforming the processes of the State Government, including the issuing and modifying of identity documents, certificates and any other documents, so that these processes and documents are inclusive of, and cater for, the needs of sex and gender diverse people. This reform will include:
- ▶ ensuring no “forced divorce” of persons who wish to change their legally recognised gender
  - ▶ simplifying the process for change of gender signifiers

- ▶ allowing neutral or unspecified signifiers
  - ▶ actively protecting the rights and autonomy of intersex persons from birth
  - ▶ reviewing any other legislation that adversely impacts the sex and gender diverse community.
- 8.56 Labor commits to reforming the processes of the State Government by July 2019, including the issuing and modifying of identity documents, certificates and other documents, so that these processes and documents are inclusive of, and cater for, the needs of the sex and gender diverse people.
- 8.57 Labor introduced a *Multicultural Recognition Act 2016 (Qld)* which established a Multicultural Queensland Charter and a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council.
- 8.58 Labor will pursue the adoption of “lemon laws” in Queensland to resolve disputes over faulty new motor vehicles. These should be consistent with other Australian laws.
- 8.59 Labor will introduce legislation for voluntary assisted dying for adults who are terminally ill, following the model of the Dying With Dignity/Oregon Model, and the Voluntary Assisted Dying legislation in Victoria. Labor’s legislation will be preceded by a parliamentary inquiry.
- 8.60 Labor will legislate on the rights of donor conceived individuals:
- ▶ for the right to identify information on their donor, regardless on when they were born
  - ▶ for the retention of information on donor conception in a government registry, to which all clinics must supply donor conception information
  - ▶ for a mechanism for accessing identifying information on their donor and birth information, including medical history of donor siblings
  - ▶ to allow donor conceived individuals to request contact with donors and donor siblings supported by counselling services
  - ▶ to protect the rights of donors and donor siblings by allowing them to veto contact.
- 8.61 Labor will prioritise funding for Legal Aid and Community Legal Centres to remove barriers to accessing justice.

## JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.62 Labor believes that crime requires appropriate penalties and responses. Labor is also committed to building a safe community that requires government to address the causes of crime and the social factors that underlie them.

- 8.63 Labor recognises the important role the police, courts and correctional centres play in reducing crime. Labor also recognises that poverty, inequality of opportunity and access to resources, unemployment and mental health also impact significantly on the level of crime in our communities. Labor is committed to exploring and implementing innovative measures to reduce crime.
- 8.64 Labor believes that in a democratic society, it is necessary that the Police Service be competent, effective, non-partisan and apolitical. The Police Service must have the respect of the community, and work with the community to make communities safer.
- 8.65 Labor believes that the purpose of an emergency services system is the protection of life, property and the environment. Labor also believes that emergency services must be able to respond to emergencies, with maximum speed and effectiveness, to preserve life and property and the environment, aid recovery from disasters and work towards disaster mitigation.
- 8.66 All Queenslanders should have access to public Ambulance Services regardless of location and free of cost.
- 8.67 Appreciating the value of public Ambulance Services and the difficulties staff face in their work, Labor recognises the need to improve work safety for these workers. This includes resourcing to adequately provide safe rest pauses and systems and technology being implemented to ensure personal safety while conducting their duties.

## **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 8.68 Labor in government is delivering a safer Queensland through programs addressing the causes of crime. Labor's approach has resulted in long-term reductions in the rates of crime affecting Queensland communities over an extended period of more than 10 years.
- 8.69 Labor is delivering a modern, well-trained and well-resourced Police Service that sets high standards in professionalism and integrity.
- 8.70 Labor in government has delivered record investment in Ambulance Service staffing, technology and equipment.
- 8.71 Labor reinstated the operations of the Special Circumstances Court throughout Queensland, including rural and remote areas where appropriate, for people suffering from cognitive disability, intellectual impairment, mental health issues, acquired brain injury, dementia and are impacted by homelessness.
- 8.72 Labor implemented youth justice conferencing, a highly successful program that provided an alternative to detention for children.
- 8.73 Labor has established Community Policing Boards to give local communities a say on crime issues in their local areas, and to reduce the burden of society's issues on police.
- 8.74 Labor remains committed to targeting new and emerging forms of crime and all kinds of organised crime, including online child sex exploitation, drug trafficking, criminal gangs and boiler room fraud.
- 8.75 Labor has implemented laws and enforcement strategies to reduce the rate and toll of alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland communities.



- 8.76 Labor is committed to equipping law enforcement agencies with the resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe, as well as providing the equipment and training required to keep officers safe.
- 8.77 Labor remains vigilant in maintaining Queensland’s capability to respond to major public emergencies and acts of terrorism.
- 8.78 Labor has commenced transitioning individuals under the age of 18 into the youth justice system.

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.79 Labor supports introducing legislative systemic police and court diversionary practices to enable vulnerable people to avoid the operation of the criminal justice system for minor public order offences. Labor believes diversionary strategies are a cheaper and more effective option than incarceration for dealing with minor personal drug misuse and minor related offences.
- 8.80 Labor believes that police should be provided with ongoing support for, and adequate resources to access, professional development, including training and professional supervision, in dealing with domestic and family violence and child abuse and vulnerable persons.
- 8.81 Labor acknowledges the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the law and justice system as both offenders and victims of crime. Labor is committed to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system.
- 8.82 Labor supports a holistic approach to addressing the socio-economic disadvantage and geographic circumstances that lead to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples entering the law and justice system.
- 8.83 Labor recognises that more collaborative responses are required to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system and supports working in partnership with community-led organisations in closing the justice gap.
- 8.84 Labor believes in the value of programs of rehabilitation for offenders.
- 8.85 Labor acknowledges the vital work of emergency services including the:
  - ▶ Queensland Ambulance Service;
  - ▶ Queensland Fire and Emergency Service, including the agencies of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service, Aviation Services Volunteer Marine Rescue organisations, Coast Guard and Rural Fire Brigade; and
  - ▶ Queensland Police Service.
- 8.86 Labor believes that Queenslanders are best protected from natural disaster by the continued integration of emergency services, with coordinated emergency protocols and disaster management plans, to ensure an effective and timely response to emergencies and disasters.



- 8.87 Labor recognises the effects of climate change on the fire season and that natural disasters such as bushfires and floods are likely to increase in severity into the future. Labor acknowledges that the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service workforce will need to grow to meet community demand in the future.
- 8.88 Labor acknowledges the community spirit and dedication of Queensland's highly motivated volunteer emergency service workers. Labor will continue to ensure that our volunteers are given maximum flexibility and adequate equipment and resources to make their contribution.
- 8.89 Labor affirms the importance of regulated requirements of safe crewing on the fire ground, which includes the principle of two-in two-out.
- 8.90 Queensland Labor supports the establishment of state and federal registration boards for Professional Firefighters.

### **Corrective Services**

- 8.91 Labor believes that Corrective Services are an essential component of Queensland's criminal justice system and values their contribution to crime prevention.
- 8.92 Labor believes that correctional facilities currently operated by the Queensland Government should remain under the operation of the Queensland Government.
- 8.93 Labor believes Queensland's Corrective Services system should provide appropriate responses and support for people in this system who suffer from disability, mental health issues, a trauma history, acquired brain injury and dementia.

### **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 8.94 Labor will work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and update proposals to reduce the problems of the overrepresentation of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the Juvenile Justice System. Labor will continue to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, while exploring and developing new and expanded opportunities to reduce the overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians in our prison system.
- 8.95 Labor will re-establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to ensure that the views of a wide cross-section of legal stakeholders and victims of crime are represented in our justice system.
- 8.96 Labor is committed to reinstating a broad range of options when it comes to youth sentencing with a focus on rehabilitation within the community.
- 8.97 Labor is committed to reinstating youth and adult justice conferencing and mediation to allow victims of crime input into the justice system and provide perpetrators an opportunity to make appropriate recompense for their offences.
- 8.98 Labor will reinstate the operation of the Special Circumstances Court with a view to extending its operation throughout Queensland, including rural and remote areas where appropriate, for people suffering from cognitive disability, intellectual impairment, mental health issues, acquired brain injury and dementia.

- 8.99 Labor will reinstate the operation of drug courts as an effective diversionary strategy for dealing with drug misuse and minor related offences as an alternative to the criminal justice system.
- 8.100 Labor will review the drug diversion program with a view to expanding both eligibility for the program and relevant minor drugs offences.
- 8.101 Labor will review the law relating to defences for murder to ensure that it adequately takes account of the position of a person who has suffered a history of domestic and family violence.
- 8.102 Labor will ensure that the option of allowing an accused in criminal cases to sit at the bar table, removing the stigma of the dock.
- 8.103 Labor will review laws relating to sexual offences to ensure proceedings are, wherever possible, less traumatic for the victim.
- 8.104 Labor will establish, support, and effectively resource diversionary centres whose focus will be on primary intervention and the assessment of the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for subsequent referral.
- 8.105 Labor will support, operate and effectively resource Murri Courts, which will include the involvement of statutory and non-statutory Community Justice Groups, Elders and victims of crime.
- 8.106 Labor will continue to ensure that Probation and Parole Service and Queensland Corrective Service officers who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities are provided cultural awareness training.
- 8.107 The Probation and Parole Service will offer a broad range of culturally responsive early interventions, diversionary, and rehabilitation programs designed specifically to meet the diverse needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 8.108 Labor will continue to increase the numerical strength of the Queensland Police Service, and the proportion of that strength assigned to operational duties, classifications, sections and equipment required to establish a competent, effective law enforcement operation.
- 8.109 Labor will ensure that functions that do not require a Police Officer's training and experience are undertaken by civilians.
- 8.110 Labor will continue to promote a Police Service that reflects the diversity of the broader community of Queensland.
- 8.111 Labor will continue the Indigenous Cadetship Program and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Program and expand programs that provide a pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse peoples into the Queensland Police Service.
- 8.112 Labor sees emergency services expenditure as an investment in the lives and the quality of life of Queenslanders. Labor will focus on protecting all Queensland communities, as far as possible, from the effects of natural and man-made disasters and emergencies. In achieving this, expenditure will continue to be focused on:
  - ▶ front line service delivery;

- ▶ training and development for all personnel including volunteers; and
  - ▶ effectively coordinated systems, policies and procedures.
- 8.113 Labor will continue to advance the professionalism of emergency services personnel by ensuring their proper recognition, job satisfaction, incentives and career paths.
- 8.114 Labor in government will continue to increase the numerical strength of Queensland Ambulance Services, and the proportion of that strength assigned to operational duties, classifications, sections and equipment required to establish a competent, effective ambulance service operation.
- 8.115 Labor will develop an appropriate Resourcing Matrix to ensure the Queensland Ambulance Service has the ability to respond to community demand for ambulance services without compromising staff safety.
- 8.116 Labor in government will develop and enhance ambulance operations through the implementation of Low Acuity Response, Specialised Retrieval Units (Bariatric, Paediatric, Neonatal) and alternate referral pathways for patients, to reduce the burden on hospital emergency departments.
- 8.117 Labor, in consultation with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and relevant unions, will develop strategies to ensure Queensland Fire and Emergency Services continues to have the capacity to respond to community demand effectively into the future, without compromising staff safety.
- 8.118 Labor commits to continuing the modernisation of the organisational structure of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services during the next term of government.
- 8.119 Labor will ensure that victims of crime are properly supported, through timely and appropriate responses to help victims of crime rebuild their lives.
- 8.120 Labor will ensure that the Queensland Police Service provides appropriate special assistance to people from vulnerable backgrounds such as women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and people with cognitive disability, intellectual disability, acquired brain injury, dementia or mental illness.
- 8.121 Labor recognises the right of all to access public space and believes police should not have a general power to move on people from a public space. Labor will ensure an independent review of the move-on power legislation, consulting widely with relevant community stakeholders.
- Labor will establish a public register of move-on directions and reasons, without identifying individuals, and will ensure adequate appeal mechanisms exist to challenge these directions.
- 8.122 Labor will continue to roll-out body-worn cameras to improve to improve evidence collection and accountability for police officers.
- 8.123 Labor believes crime prevention requires strong community connections. Labor will encourage the community to work with police in both detection and prevention of crime, including Community Policing Boards, Neighbourhood Watch and Police Community Consultative Committees.

# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## LABOR VALUES

- 8.124 Labor is committed to eradicating all forms of violence against women.
- 8.125 Labor acknowledges domestic and sexual violence, including intimate partner violence, is a whole of society issue that affects all people but, are overwhelmingly forms of violence that affect women and are reinforced by cultural attitudes and gendered bias.
- 8.126 Labor understands that violence against women can be perpetrated across a range of platforms, and Labor must adapt to legislate against new and emerging forms of abuse, such as technology facilitated abuse, or revenge porn.
- 8.127 Labor understands that reducing violence against women is contingent on increasing women’s representation throughout all areas of our society.
- 8.128 Labor in government will create a Sexuality and Gender Commissioner.
- 8.129 Labor in government will promote a portfolio of equality within the Queensland Cabinet.
- 8.130 Labor understands that addressing violence against women must be undertaken through an integrated and multi-sector approach and undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner that is respectful and takes into account the wishes of, and best practices for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Queenslanders.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.131 Labor in government has begun significant work to eradicate violence against women in Queensland, including it:
  - ▶ announced a Queensland Women’s Strategy, a state-wide plan to improve the welfare of women across four key areas – leadership and participation, economic security, safety and, health and wellbeing
  - ▶ announced Queensland’s first Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy
  - ▶ released Queensland’s first Violence Against Women Prevention Plan, focusing on gendered forms of violence such as domestic violence and sexual violence
  - ▶ supported the creation and expansion of domestic and family violence services in predominantly rural and regional areas across Queensland
  - ▶ committed funding for the training and upskill of domestic and family violence workers in rural and regional areas
  - ▶ began and extended the trial of Queensland’s first Domestic and Family Violence Magistrate and Court
  - ▶ committed funding to establish more specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts across Queensland, following an independent review of the Southport Court

- ▶ established two dedicated 24-hour crisis shelters in Brisbane and Townsville, respectively
- ▶ committed funding for new and enhanced perpetrator intervention programs
- ▶ committed funding for the development of new ICT solutions to support an integrated response to domestic and family violence
- ▶ committed funding to establish two dedicated 24-hour crisis shelters in Charters Towers and Roma, respectively
- ▶ established an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, and expanded the Domestic and Family Violence Review Unit
- ▶ established three trial integrated response sites in Logan-Beenleigh, Mt Isa and Cherbourg
- ▶ committed funding to establish more integrated response trial sites across Queensland
- ▶ committed funding to expand the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service to 14 locations through Legal Aid Queensland
- ▶ worked with other states to implement the National Framework to Prevent Violence Against Women and Their Children
- ▶ contributed funding for a national campaign to raise awareness to the prevalence and early warning signs of domestic and family violence
- ▶ committed funding to develop and trial integrated responses in urban, regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- ▶ Joining Our Watch, a nationwide foundation that works to prevent violence against women and children
- ▶ is developing the Domestic Violence and Workplace Support Package for the public service, including 10 days paid domestic and family violence leave
- ▶ committed additional funding for sexual violence and women's health services
- ▶ is delivering the Respectful Relationships curriculum, developed for Prep to Grade 12

There have been a number of legislative changes, including:

- ▶ increasing maximum penalties for perpetrators that breach their domestic violence orders
- ▶ requiring courts to consider ouster orders
- ▶ ensuring that cross applications of domestic violence orders are heard together
- ▶ making strangulation a separate offence
- ▶ allowing courts to consider domestic and family violence victims as "special witnesses", so they do not have to testify in court in front of their abuser.

- 8.132 Labor has collaborated with other states and territories in developing a framework to ensure domestic violence protection orders are recognised across state and territory borders.

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.133 Labor believes approaches to domestic and family violence must take into account the gendered nature of this violence, and work at addressing violence against women as a whole.
- 8.134 Labor believes that all children have the right to grow up without seeing or experiencing domestic and family violence.
- 8.135 Labor believes that the prevention of violence against women must be addressed through a comprehensive action plan that is collaborative, and engages with stakeholders in the wider community.
- 8.136 Labor believes that strategies developed to prevent domestic and family violence must be informed by the community, as well as a range of sectors that are impacted by domestic and family violence, including the health, education, judicial and housing sectors.
- 8.137 Labor believes that all victims and survivors should be able to access paid leave through their workplaces, when dealing with matters arising from, or as a result of, domestic and family violence.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 8.138 Labor will work with all sectors of the Queensland community to implement the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy, a targeted and state-wide strategy with a holistic approach to the causes and effects of domestic and family violence at state, regional and local community levels.
- 8.139 Labor will provide a coordinated network of counselling and support services to assist victims of domestic and family violence, including children, ensuring adequate accessibility of services in rural and regional locations.
- 8.140 Labor will prioritise the provision of both emergency and long-term accommodation for victims of family violence, with specific regard for need in the regions.
- 8.141 Labor will continue to roll out specialist domestic and family violence courts across Queensland as part of our domestic and family violence reforms.
- 8.142 Labor will continue to fund legal assistance to victims of domestic and family violence and sexual violence, primarily through adequately funding and resourcing Legal Aid Queensland and community legal centres.
- 8.143 Labor will ensure that officers and staff of the Queensland Police Service are adequately trained and educated to appropriately and effectively deal with domestic and family violence and sexual violence matters.
- 8.144 Labor will ensure that programs are available to support victims of domestic and family violence, and to address perpetrators' behaviours, within the corrective services system.



- 8.145 Labor will ensure that programs are available to support all victims of domestic and family violence, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family violence legal services that are culturally appropriate and responsive to need.
- 8.146 Labor will actively encourage state, independent and Catholic schools to implement the Respectful Relationships program within their classrooms.
- 8.147 Labor will engage with existing domestic and family violence services to ensure they are conscious of the needs of marginalised groups who may access their services, such as women with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer/questioning people and ensure there is adequate funding for such services.
- 8.148 Labor will ensure a range of resources and services are available to address the causes of domestic and family violence, including:
- ▶ counselling and behavioural change programs for perpetrators in order to prevent and respond to domestic and family violence
  - ▶ community education programs focussed on preventing domestic and family violence and changing community attitudes towards domestic and family violence
  - ▶ training for professionals (such as nurses and social workers and legal practitioners), including all frontline workers, to help them recognise signs of violence and appropriately and effectively deal with domestic and family violence matters
  - ▶ training for workplaces to build understanding of domestic and family violence, and violence against women, and provide appropriate support.
- 8.149 Labor will fund Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic and family violence services that are culturally appropriate and responsive to the needs of victims and survivors of violence who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Labor will work in partnership with the Federal Government to improve access to culturally appropriate services in regions where Indigenous specific services for victims and survivors of violence are currently absent.

## CHILD PROTECTION

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.150 Labor recognises that the best way to protect children is to minimise child abuse and neglect in the first place. To do this, we need to build capacity and strength in our families and communities across Queensland, through high quality universal education, health and social services.

### LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.151 Previous Labor Governments in Queensland have led the reform of Queensland's child protection system, delivering:
- ▶ a more accountable child protection system, overseen by a separate statutory authority



- ▶ increased allowances and training for foster carers
- ▶ specialist targeted programs for children with complex and extreme needs
- ▶ Early Years Centres for “one-stop-shop” family support
- ▶ intensive therapeutic residential support services
- ▶ early intervention and prevention services for children and families at risk
- ▶ establishment of Safe Houses in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities
- ▶ specialist positions to support quality practice.

8.152 The Queensland Labor Government has delivered significant funding to reform child and family support services that assist parents and families with the right service at the right time, including:

- ▶ establishing a two-year trial to deliver universal parenting support programs for all Queensland parents
- ▶ the expansion and integration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family support and child protection services, including funding a peak body to plan and develop the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander controlled agencies to provide family services
- ▶ restoring vital frontline and frontline support child safety jobs
- ▶ increasing funding for intensive family support services
- ▶ committing funding for the establishment of 20 Family and Child Connect services across Queensland
- ▶ committing funding for the establishment of family wellbeing centres, which will assist approximately 6 000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland
- ▶ establishing the Empowering Families Innovation Fund – aimed at generating innovative, community led ideas for keeping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families together
- ▶ introducing amendments to the *Adoption Act 2009 (Qld)* which will enable same sex couples, singles and people undergoing fertility treatment to adopt.

8.153 Labor developed and implemented minimum qualification standards for all workers who provide support to children who have been harmed and/or are at risk of harm, for example, residential care workers. Labor continues to support current workers who do not have minimum qualifications to gain those qualifications.

Labor developed these standards in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Child Safety Services and social and community services, as well as the workers in these services.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 8.154 All children have a right to grow up in an environment free from neglect and abuse. Children's best interests are paramount in all decisions affecting them.
- 8.155 Children and their families have a right to participate in decisions affecting them.
- 8.156 The safety and well-being of children is primarily the responsibility of their families, who should be supported by their communities and governments.
- 8.157 Children's rights must always be upheld by systems and institutions.
- 8.158 Policies and interventions must be evidence-based.
- 8.159 The disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is best addressed by a collaborative approach that incorporates holistic and culturally sensitive responses that are informed by solutions led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and community-identified solutions.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.160 Labor will develop an accessible, inclusive integrated network of early intervention and prevention services available to all Queensland families to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect.
- 8.161 Labor will provide adequately resourced, comprehensive support in the transition to independent living for young people leaving care.  
  
Where residential care services are assessed as appropriate for children who have been harmed and/or are at risk of harm, Labor supports the use of, and will adequately resource, public and not-for-profit organisations to provide this service.
- 8.162 Labor will establish the mandatory conditions for organisations to have child-safe environments and robust accountability frameworks for responding to allegations.
- 8.163 Labor will ensure that shopping centre Santas and their helpers will be required to obtain a Blue Card (Working with Children Card) prior to working with children, in line with other categories of the workforce.
- 8.164 Labor supports the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and in government will work towards implementing the Commission's recommendations to ensure zero tolerance of child sexual abuse and support for victims of child sexual abuse.
- 8.165 Labor will work towards a significant reduction in the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and communities; and institute policies and practices which support the care of these children within their families and communities in partnership with community-led organisations.
- 8.166 Labor will respond legislatively to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.

- 8.167 Labor will identify and support independent early intervention programs aimed at supporting children at risk and their families, with a view to keeping children out of the justice system, and will work collaboratively with the Department of Child Safety where necessary.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.168 Labor acknowledges the broad spectrum of disability that can be either permanent or temporary: including, physical and intellectual disability as well as mental health issues.
- 8.169 Labor is committed to supporting and valuing carers and support workers.
- 8.170 Labor is committed to building an equal and equitable society that is free from discrimination, poverty and prejudice, by taking action to ensure the structures that promote these features are eradicated.
- 8.171 Labor is committed to ensuring that there are appropriate safeguards to protect people with disability from violence in care homes, institutions and in the broader community.
- 8.172 Labor is committed to leading the way for an all abilities Queensland by recognising that every aspect of community life in Queensland can welcome and include people with disability.
- 8.173 Labor values an inclusive and flexible society because not only does this benefit people with disability, but society as a whole.

### LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.174 Labor established Queensland's first Department of Disability Services, then progressively increased funding to assist more Queenslanders who have a disability.
- 8.175 Labor has implemented initiatives to build inclusive communities in which all citizens can participate fully in social and economic opportunities.
- 8.176 Labor successfully secured an early roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) from January 2016 for eligible children and young people under 18 years of age in Townsville, Charters Towers, and eligible people of any age on Palm Island.
- 8.177 By signing the Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland, all eligible Queenslanders with disability will have funded packages by 2019. By 30 June 2019, more than 91,000 eligible Queenslanders will be receiving support, doubling the amount of people currently receiving state support from disability services.
- 8.178 The Labor Government also introduced the National Injury Insurance Scheme (NIIS), which provides lifetime care for those catastrophically injured in vehicle accidents.
- 8.179 Labor has implemented the Queensland NDIS Workforce Strategy to effectively begin the establishment of jobs, programs and infrastructure for the NDIS.

- 8.180 Labor has committed to working towards an “All Abilities Queensland” that allows governments of all levels, business, community organisations and the broader community to come together so that attitudes, actions, services and spaces welcome and value all Queenslanders.

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.181 The majority of informal care is provided by family members and that these carers should be supported in that role.
- 8.182 All people with a disability have the same rights to health, work, adequate housing, and social participation as the rest of the community.
- 8.183 Labor is committed to the priorities of the National Disability Strategy to drive improvements across mainstream and disability systems with the goal of a more inclusive society. Labor will always fight for a strong, fully funded National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 8.184 Labor is committed to strong community care services for those people not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, to continue to have access to necessary services and supports.
- 8.185 Everyone should be able to have the same educational and employment opportunities, as such information needs to be accessible and available in multiple formats.
- 8.186 People of all abilities deserve strong rewarding relationships at work, recreationally, and at home. As such we believe that places, spaces and events should be accessible to all.
- 8.187 People with disability have the right to a safe living and working environment.
- 8.188 Social policy must not only address societal inequalities but must also be a vehicle for the empowerment of individuals and communities.
- 8.189 People with disability have a vital role in providing leadership in community, government and business sectors.
- 8.190 Labor recognises the mutually beneficial relationship between people with disability, unions and the wider labour movement.
- 8.191 Family members should be supported in order to provide adequate care for their loved ones within their communities.
- 8.192 All people with disability should have equitable access to health, housing, transport and social participation.
- 8.193 Labor is committed to the priorities of the National Disability Strategy to drive improvements across mainstream and disability systems with the goal of a more inclusive society.
- 8.194 Labor will always fight for a strong, fully funded National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 8.195 Labor is committed to strong Community Care services for those people not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme to continue to have access to necessary services and supports.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.196 Labor will pursue a smooth transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 8.197 Labor strongly supports the vital work performed by all staff in the community and disability sector and will address the capacity, skill and remuneration issues affecting the disability workforce, including those who receive the Carers Pension and/or Allowance, due to the huge expansion of the sector under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 8.198 Ongoing workforce attraction and retention is necessary to ensure quality care and outcomes for people living with a disability.
- 8.199 Labor will work with disability services workers and their unions, service providers and stakeholders to develop and implement a disability sector workforce strategy to improve sector capacity and maintain and enhance quality standards.
- 8.200 Labor will work actively with employers to address disability workforce shortages, particularly in rural, regional and remotes areas, by supporting improved remuneration and conditions for disability workers, and investing in increased training and development initiatives.
- 8.201 Labor strongly supports the vital work performed by all staff in the community and disability sector and will address the capacity, skill and remuneration issues affecting the disability workforce, including those who receive the Carer's Pension and/or allowance, due to the huge expansion of the sector under the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- 8.202 Ongoing workforce attraction and retention is necessary to ensure quality care and outcomes for people living with a disability.
- 8.203 Labor is committed to the effective development and implementation of an All-Abilities Queensland Plan. This will ensure that Queensland experiences the maximum benefit of the NDIS to facilitate communities that are accessible, supportive, and inclusive for all people with disability. Specifically:
- ▶ Personal and community relationships – people with disability have strong relationships across all parts of life and are valued member of the community
  - ▶ Recreation and tourism – people with disability can participate in recreational activities of their choice
  - ▶ Working and learning – Queensland provides better learning and work opportunities for people with disability
  - ▶ Key services – health, education, housing and transport services are accessible to people with disability
  - ▶ Leadership and contribution – active participation and leadership in the community.
- 8.204 Labor is committed to reducing the occurrence of violence against people with disability.
- 8.205 Labor is committed to developing a suite of housing solutions for people with disability, including consideration of mandatory building standards.

- 8.206 Labor is committed to getting people with disability who want to work into jobs, through employment, starting small businesses or through volunteering.
- 8.207 Labor is committed to shifting attitudes of business, community and government sectors to be ready, willing and able to benefit from employing, training and having people with disability in leadership positions.
- 8.208 Labor is committed to increasing people with disability's representation in board, executive, political and governance roles.
- 8.209 Labor is committed to the smooth, successful, and effective transition of participants, providers, and the disability services sector to the NDIS. Preparedness, workability, and implementation are core components of Labor's commitment to getting this transition for Queenslanders right.

## **SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **LABOR VALUES**

- 8.210 Labor is committed to building an equal and equitable society that is free from discrimination, poverty and prejudice, by taking action to ensure the structures that promote these features are eradicated.
- 8.211 Labor recognises the social, cultural and economic benefits that a multicultural society delivers to all Queenslanders and is committed to promoting a united, harmonious and inclusive community.
- 8.212 Labor is committed to building a more sustainable social and community services industry in Queensland. Labor recognises that public and not-for-profit organisations are better positioned than for-profit corporations to provide social and community services to vulnerable Queenslanders.

### **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 8.213 Labor in government has continuously encouraged and supported the innovative development, coordination, integration and resource growth of the community sector as an essential part of the Queensland social services system.
- 8.214 Labor has committed to standardising five-year contracts across the social and community services to increase certainty for clients and workers and to lessen the need for competitive tendering.
- 8.215 Labor has established human services and programs using frameworks that recognise human rights and, in particular, the rights of individuals to actively participate in the making of decisions affecting their lives.
- 8.216 Labor has increased funding for neighbourhood centres to help Queenslanders access support for domestic and family violence, counselling, parenting help, financial literacy and other social programs.
- 8.217 Labor has re-established a peak body for neighbourhood centres.
- 8.218 Labor has developed a Financial Inclusion Strategy.
- 8.219 Labor has committed funding to establish two Good Money shops, as alternatives to pay-day lenders, in Cairns and the Gold Coast.



## LABOR BELIEFS

- 8.220 The contribution of all members of society, including people of all ages, people with disabilities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is valuable and should be recognised.
- 8.221 Building a strong and cohesive community requires support for people of all ethnicities, cultural backgrounds and ages to fully participate in the social, economic and cultural fabric of our community.
- 8.222 Social policy must not only address societal inequalities but must also be a vehicle for the empowerment of individuals and communities.
- 8.223 Quality and affordable childcare services should be available for all families throughout the state.
- 8.224 Access to safe, adequate, appropriate and affordable housing is a basic right of all people.
- 8.225 Labor recognises that poor social determinants across Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations reflect the impact of European colonisation and that government has a primary role to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to redress existing social, health, political and economic disparities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians.
- 8.226 Labor commits to ensuring fresh food and other groceries are readily available and affordable in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- 8.227 Labor believes all Queenslanders should have equity of access to services regardless of geographical location. Remote and regional disadvantage should be addressed by place-based responses that build community capacity, well-being and resilience.
- 8.228 Policy development and implementation is undertaken in collaboration with service users and their families/advocates and government and non-government agencies and unions to ensure appropriate, effective and coordinated responses.
- 8.229 Labor will continue its support for multicultural groups and organisations in their efforts to celebrate Queensland's diversity, promote harmony, and strengthen cultural understanding with the wider community.
- 8.230 Labor will support culturally and linguistically diverse Queenslanders in our community by ensuring they have equitable access to services and opportunities.
- 8.231 Labor recognises that public and not-for-profit organisations are better positioned than for-profit corporations to provide support services, including residential care services.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.232 Labor will ensure adequate and sustainable funding of both government and non-government programs as a prerequisite to the provision of quality services.
- 8.233 Labor in Government will:



- ▶ substantially increase the financial penalty that is imposed on a person who is caught illegally using a disabled car parking space;
  - ▶ introduce a demerit point on the vehicle licence of a person who is caught illegally using a disabled car parking space;
  - ▶ substantially increase the policing of disabled parking spaces;
  - ▶ introduce the requirement for consistent and effective signage to be used to identify disabled parking spaces across Queensland; and
  - ▶ collaborate with local government to develop and implement a comprehensive program to educate the public about the disability car parking system.
- 8.234 Labor will pursue a ‘housing first’ strategy which ensures access to secure and appropriate housing and flexible supports, to significantly reduce homelessness.
- 8.235 Labor will deliver innovative and collaborative development, with community and private sector partners, of sustainable social, appropriate and affordable housing initiatives.
- 8.236 Labor will continue to address youth unemployment through initiatives and programs that encourage young people to undertake further education and training and that achieve real job outcomes.
- 8.237 Labor will deliver integrated, flexible and innovative programs to address vulnerability and support individual and family capacity to live full and effective lives.
- 8.238 Labor will collaborate with the Commonwealth Government to ensure financial support for approved non-government organisations is sufficient to ensure that award wages and conditions apply to all workers.
- 8.239 Labor will evaluate welfare and community development programs to ensure improved outcomes are achieved and to safeguard the effective and efficient use of public funds.
- 8.240 Labor is committed to supporting local community advocacy and front-line support services through community hubs, providing local people with access to local support networks on an immediate and on-going basis for those individuals and families experiencing difficulties.
- 8.241 Labor will work with the community sector and its workforce representatives to establish a new model for funding community services to better address the needs and interests of the people they support and the local communities in which they work. Funding of community services in our community should be: sustainable; focus on collaboration rather than competition between providers; and support local, appropriate and qualified service provision.
- 8.242 Labor will formalise a process to negotiate treaties between First Nations peoples within the next term of government, in part or whole.
- 8.243 Labor will establish & authorise a Treaty Working Group within the next term of Parliament to begin negotiations. The Group’s terms of reference will provide advice on the process and timing for treaties, guidance on community engagement and examining options for a permanent Queensland Aboriginal representative body.

- 8.244 The Treaty Working Group shall comprise of, at least, 50% women and include nominees from Traditional Owner Corporations, the Queensland Indigenous Youth Parliament and Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations. The Minister may also appoint people based on their personal experience and expertise. The number that the Minister shall appoint should be less than the number of non-ministerial appointed members.
- 8.245 After the formation of such a working group, regional forums will be held to discuss the group’s work and the next steps for the Queensland Government.
- 8.246 Labor will work with the social and community services sector, including employers and unions, to establish a portable long service leave scheme for employees.

## **OLDER QUEENSLANDERS**

### **LABOR VALUES**

- 8.247 Labor is committed to ensuring that older Queenslanders are able to lead a healthy and productive life, whether in work, volunteering or in retirement; with access to choice of lifestyle opportunities and care and support, appropriate to their needs.

### **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 8.248 Labor recognises the importance of older Queenslanders having a voice in government and will retain a Minister for Seniors.
- 8.249 Labor in government will continue to prioritise a range of services and subsidies for older Queenslanders that enhance their independence, dignity, health and happiness.

### **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.250 Queensland should be an age-friendly state where all Queenslanders, of all ages, can stay active, connected and contribute economically, socially and culturally.
- 8.251 Older Queenslanders should be able to live in their communities wherever possible and, where necessary, be supported and maintained by a diverse and flexible range of services designed to enhance their independence, dignity, health and happiness and to assist them in transitions as they age.
- 8.252 Government must promote a greater community understanding of the wider issues concerning positive ageing and of the valuable contribution that older Queenslanders have made and continue to make to society.
- 8.253 A whole-of-government approach is needed on policy affecting older Queenslanders.
- 8.254 The development of a quality aged-care workforce should be actively supported through appropriate award conditions, remuneration and training opportunities.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.255 Labor will upgrade, extend and maintain a comprehensive range of domiciliary support services for older Queenslanders.
- 8.256 Labor will maintain and enhance the services, subsidies and discounts provided to older Queenslanders, where appropriate.
- 8.257 Labor will work towards 'Closing the Gap' in life expectancy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and work with community-lead organisations to increase life expectancy.
- 8.258 Labor will plan and integrate services for older Queenslanders at a regional level and ensure that these services are adequately funded.
- 8.259 Labor will encourage community support to enable older Queenslanders to remain in their own homes wherever possible.
- 8.260 Labor will prioritise and support the advocacy and policy role of the Office for Seniors to ensure that older Queenslanders are consulted and their needs met and that there is greater government and community awareness of the issues affecting them.
- 8.261 Labor will work actively with employers to address workforce shortages by supporting improved remuneration and conditions for aged care workers, and investing in increased training and development initiatives.

## YOUNG QUEENSLANDERS

### LABOR VALUES

- 8.262 Labor values the considerable contribution young people make to our society as they participate and contribute to the wider social, economic, educational, cultural and environmental development and prosperity of our state.

### LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.263 Labor supported programs to assist disadvantaged youth and their families, particularly those who are at risk of homelessness, engaging in criminal behaviour or suffering mental illness.
- 8.264 Labor has reinstated successful training and development programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work to help young people gain meaningful employment.
- 8.265 Labor supports the engagement and empowerment of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women through the Deadly Sistas program.
- 8.266 Labor delivers Youth Support Services to assist young people to connect with positive family support, jobs, education and training, a healthy and violence-free life and safe and stable housing.
- 8.267 Labor is committed to fostering young Queenslanders talent and innovation through the sponsorship of the Queensland Premier's Young Publishers and Writers Awards.

- 8.268 Labor continues to support Youth Leadership Programs such as the YMCA, Youth Parliament, the Indigenous Youth Leadership Program and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- 8.269 Labor is committed to giving young Queenslanders, particularly women and girls, access to a wide range of local quality, sporting and active recreational infrastructure and participation opportunities.

## **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.270 Labor believes there should be greater awareness of issues concerning young people and of the valuable contribution young people make to our society.
- 8.271 Labor is committed to fostering an awareness and understanding of the central role of the community in developing policies and programs that focus on issues affecting young people, their status in society, and their relevant cross-cultural needs and concerns.
- 8.272 Labor recognises that young people need the support of caring adults in their transition from dependent to independent living.
- 8.273 Labor is committed to providing a range of support services to young people, their families, other adults who provide care, and those who work towards meeting the diverse needs of the young people of our state.
- 8.274 Labor recognises that to meet the needs of young people, there needs to be a focus on setting priorities, defining goals, coordinating efforts across government departments, and increasing the consultative and cooperation process between government and the community.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 8.275 Labor will restore the operation of the Young Workers Advisory Service.
- 8.276 Labor will release a comprehensive, state-wide Youth Strategy, after consultation with a broad range of young people from across Queensland.
- 8.277 Labor will encourage young people to be involved in decision making in relation to the social, economic, environmental, cultural, educational, recreational and political life of their community.
- 8.278 Labor will fully recognise and encourage the participation of young people in all relevant aspects of life.
- 8.279 Labor will promote an integrated and coordinated delivery of services to young Queenslanders.
- 8.280 Labor will promote two-way communication between young people, community groups and organisations, and agencies and government departments.
- 8.281 Labor will make resources available in key areas in accordance with the needs of young people, and will identify and target disadvantaged young people in the allocation of these resources.
- 8.282 Labor will undertake research to gain an awareness and understanding of the needs, problems and issues confronting young people, and develop resources for sharing knowledge and information between the government and the community.

# ARTS AND CULTURE

## LABOR VALUES

- 8.283 Labor recognises that the arts are an essential element of human endeavour. The key values for sustainable development are creativity, heritage, knowledge and diversity.
- 8.284 Labor is aware that the arts, through the specific contributions that they make as knowledge capital and a sector of creativity and exploration, promote inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, harmony, peace, security and wonder. Labor knows that the arts and expressions of heritage and culture are essential elements for the development of people and communities.
- 8.285 Labor values the considerable contribution the arts make to the economy of Queensland and the GDP of the nation.
- 8.286 Labor values the many creative disciplines that Queensland has to offer in all their diversity. Labor recognises the positive impact that the arts have on wellbeing, health and reconciliation.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.287 Labor's support for the arts is shown nationally by The Australia Council, greatly expanded in 1975 by the Whitlam Government. Keating brought in the Creative Nation policy and Gillard, Creative Australia.
- 8.288 Labor has a long history of supporting the arts and arts education. Initiatives include:
- ▶ the Millennium Arts Projects: the Gallery of Modern Art and the Queensland State Library extensions
  - ▶ establishing the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards in 1999, then restoring funding to the new Queensland Literary Awards in 2015
  - ▶ doubling the budget for the Regional Arts Development Fund
  - ▶ the art+place Public Art program
  - ▶ the Queensland Premier's Drama Award
  - ▶ the Matilda Awards
  - ▶ the Backing Indigenous Arts program
  - ▶ funding a range of larger institutions such as Queensland Theatre Company, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Queensland Ballet, Queensland Museum, Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art
  - ▶ investing \$30 million over four years in Screen Queensland to attract blockbuster films and develop world class content
  - ▶ establishing the Queensland Arts Showcase program to support small to medium arts organisations, including \$5.1 million of new money
  - ▶ boosting funding to the Organisations Fund 2017-2020 by \$570,000 per year, thus increasing the number of small to medium arts organisations receiving core operational funding from 35 to 39

- ▶ restoring blockbuster funding of \$10.8 million to the Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art to secure major exhibitions
- ▶ improving collection storage and access for the Queensland Museum with \$7 million over four years for key equipment and upgrades
- ▶ supporting regional access to the arts by bolstering the Playing Queensland Fund by \$3 million over four years to extend the number of reach of touring productions.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 8.289 Labor believes that a vibrant, widespread, accessible and comprehensive arts sector will benefit Queensland culturally and economically.
- 8.290 Involvement in the arts should be available to all Queenslanders and the arts, personal and commercial, should be resourced to enable and foster this.
- 8.291 The availability of arts education at all levels of schooling and tertiary education is essential.
- 8.292 Labor believes in fair dealing and supporting the intellectual property rights of arts professionals.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.293 Labor will maintain a Ministry for the Arts and ensure the Agency is committed to promoting Queensland artists and arts practice in all its diversity.
- 8.294 Labor will encourage and support the arts for their social, cultural and commercial values by policy review, analysis and development and substantial resourcing of the arts and the creative industries. Labor will encourage participation in the arts throughout the state and will support and encourage production of new work of exceptional quality.
- 8.295 Labor will promote the creation of national and international interest in Queensland arts and culture and promote the growth of cultural tourism.
- 8.296 Labor is respectful of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, protocols and practices, and will seek permission from the artist or, if passed (deceased), the artist's family before selling or disposing any gifted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art, artworks or artefact.
- 8.297 Labor will foster, support, and actively promote, traditional and contemporary Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, and the training of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for employment in arts industries and Statutory Authorities.
- 8.298 Labor will ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples participate in the planning decision-making and implementation of policies and programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts.
- 8.299 Labor will realistically resource Arts Queensland administration and support offices to be self-sufficient and autonomous. The Labor Government will be advised by consultative committees of representatives from all arts sectors.



- 8.300 Labor will support artists at all stages of their careers, especially on career longevity. Labor's programs of assistance to Queensland's artists and arts workers will be designed with sector input, and will actively encourage collaborations with industries of all types.
- 8.301 Labor will continue peer assessed short and long-term project-based funding for the arts. Support will be focused on proper pay and conditions for artists.
- 8.302 Labor will examine affordable public liability insurance for arts workers and events.
- 8.303 Labor will support the advocacy roles of relevant and effective state peak arts bodies.
- 8.304 Labor will develop programs to increase the publication of Queensland writers.
- 8.305 Labor will support arts and cultural projects that foster inclusive community development. Labor will ensure that arts and cultural projects within communities are designed in consultation with those communities and professional arts workers, and are appropriately resourced.
- 8.306 Labor will maintain regional branches of offices of the arts to service the regions and facilitate effective communication between regional arts workers and organisations and government. Labor will support the Regional Arts Development Fund, and through the ArTour, maintain and strengthen an arts touring program to and from regional and remote communities.
- 8.307 Labor will support diversity in the performing arts in Queensland by providing funding to a range of music, dance and theatre companies. Labor will require those companies to produce work by Queensland artists with specific funds available annually so that companies can commission new works by Queensland resident writers, choreographers and composers.
- 8.308 Labor will require that a percentage of the total value of Queensland Government public works building projects be used to incorporate work by Queensland artists, craftworkers and designers.
- 8.309 Labor will encourage the development of a viable, sustainable and effective state-wide creative industries sector that will be serviced by an expanded Arts Queensland and will encourage the growth of Queensland film and television production and distribution by providing incentives.
- 8.310 Labor will support the education and training of Queensland artists, designers, craftspeople, and theatre, film and television professionals, and support demand driven vocational education and training that is managed collaboratively with industry.
- 8.311 Labor will work with local governments to keep public libraries publicly funded, relevant and useful to the communities they serve. Labor will ensure that all Queensland regional areas have good access to free information sources.



- 8.312 Labor will review and monitor the performance indicators for each statutory authority and support partnerships between Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, State Library and the Queensland Museum Network, with a particular regard to the needs of rural and remote areas.

## **SPORT AND RECREATION**

### **LABOR VALUES**

- 8.313 Labor recognises that involvement in sport and recreation activities brings together community members and is an essential element in building strong and cohesive communities.
- 8.314 Labor recognises that participation in sport and recreational activities enhances the quality of life of Queenslanders, by delivering social, health and economic benefits.
- 8.315 Labor acknowledges that community clubs play a fundamental role in society. Clubs are providers of quality, secure jobs and Labor is committed to ensure that those clubs that do not reduce weekend and public holiday penalty rates, will be prioritised to receive ongoing support as part of the significant funding they receive from government.

### **LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

- 8.316 Labor invested in major sporting infrastructure including facility developments, such as North Queensland Stadium and the Queensland Netball Centre, to provide community members with high-quality experiences at major events.
- 8.317 Labor supported hundreds of grassroots sporting organisations by providing funding for upgrades to facilities and grants for equipment, administration and services.
- 8.318 Labor secured the 2018 Commonwealth Games for the Gold Coast – the first time this multi-sport event will be hosted in a regional city.
- 8.319 Labor provided funding to sports clubs and organisations to build capacity in coaching and administration, which encouraged community participation in a range of activities.

### **LABOR BELIEFS**

- 8.320 Access to, and participation in, organised sporting and recreational activities enhances the quality of life of all Queenslanders. Labor believes in giving Queenslanders access to a wider range of local quality sporting and active recreation infrastructure.
- 8.321 The promotion of the benefits of sport, recreation and leisure activities must be in accordance with the ideals of access, equity and participation.
- 8.322 Increased opportunities and participation in all areas of the sports industry, particularly among young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, people with a disability and people in regional and rural Queensland, benefits the whole community.

- 8.323 The values of fair play should be embraced, and policies and guidelines should be implemented to ensure a quality sport experience for all participants.

## **LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT**

- 8.324 Labor will provide services and funding to state sporting organisations and peak bodies to facilitate the development of the sport and recreation industry.
- 8.325 Labor will continue to ensure that the sport and recreational needs of young people, women, seniors, people with disabilities, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and people in rural and regional areas are identified and supported in all of its policies and programs.
- 8.326 Labor will facilitate the delivery of well-planned, developed and managed facilities and natural environments to accommodate participation at all levels.
- 8.327 Labor will attract, secure and support major national and international sporting and recreational events that have the capacity to encourage large numbers of participants, spectators and visitors from interstate and overseas.
- 8.328 Labor will encourage families, individuals and communities to adopt healthy lifestyles and enjoy physical activity by participating in sport and recreation.
- 8.329 Labor will facilitate the provision of a wider range of opportunities to encourage more Queenslanders to take regular, moderate, physical activity throughout the various stages of their lives.
- 8.330 Labor will develop specific programs that engage young people, seniors, people with disabilities, women, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in sport and recreation activities.
- 8.331 Labor will support programs that involve children in regular physical activity and promote children's sport programs with emphasis on participation, respect for team effort and enjoyment.
- 8.332 Labor will ensure the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games leaves a positive legacy for the entire state, in the form of increased participation in sport, increased tourism and better infrastructure and facilities.
- 8.333 Labor will encourage the use and further establishment of public recreation areas.
- 8.334 Labor will provide sporting and recreation facilities for people with a disability.
- 8.335 Labor will encourage the pursuit of excellence in sports and will continue to support excellence in elite sports through the Queensland Academy of Sport.

# ANIMAL WELFARE

## LABOR VALUES

- 8.336 Labor recognises that human interactions with animals should be respectful, humane and reflect community expectations.
- 8.337 Labor recognises the important role played by companion animals in the lives of Queenslanders.
- 8.338 Labor recognises the rights of individuals to peacefully and lawfully promote the humane treatment of animals in accordance with their values.
- 8.339 Labor recognises that animals play integral roles in Queensland communities and sporting and recreational activities, as well as Queensland agricultural, production, export and other commercial industries that depend on animal keeping and animal derived products.

## LABOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 8.340 Labor has delivered on our commitment to protect puppies by legislating a compulsory registration scheme for dog breeders to stamp out unscrupulous puppy farm operators.
- 8.341 Labor has established the Animal Welfare Advisory Board made up of community, industry, and animal welfare society members to provide best practice advice on contemporary animal welfare matters.
- 8.342 Labor has passed legislation and introduced regulation to better manage the exhibition of animals in Queensland to better manage animal welfare concerns, biosecurity risks, and meet community expectations.
- 8.343 Labor established the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission with increased animal welfare measures across all three codes of Racing in Queensland.
- 8.344 Labor provided a significant increase in funding for the Greyhound Adoption Program, a service that assists in rehoming retired greyhounds.

## LABOR BELIEFS

- 8.345 Labor believes that animals should be protected from unjustifiable, unnecessary or unreasonable pain or harm.
- 8.346 Labor believes in responsible and humane animal husbandry, animal keeping, animal-based recreational activities and animal-derived product industries.

## LABOR PRIORITIES IN GOVERNMENT

- 8.347 Labor will continue to ensure that the care and protection, and responsible use of animals is maintained and meets community expectations.
- 8.348 Labor will regularly consult with industry, the RSPCA, and the community on the expectations of animal welfare.
- 8.349 Labor will ensure that legislation and regulation relating to animal welfare remains current and consistent with community expectations.

