

DRIVING QUEENSLAND'S ECONOMIC GROWTH - A JOINT ELECTION PLATFORM



AGFORCE



PROPERTY COUNCIL
OF AUSTRALIA
(QUEENSLAND)



QUEENSLAND
RESOURCES
COUNCIL



QUEENSLAND
TOURISM INDUSTRY
COUNCIL



TIMBER
QUEENSLAND



DRIVING QUEENSLAND'S ECONOMIC GROWTH - A JOINT ELECTION PLATFORM

Members of our industry associations collectively represent the major industries of Queensland. Our industries are significant employers, a source of opportunity in regional Queensland and an important driver of economic activity.

Queensland Treasury describes the Queensland economy by describing the economic importance of four iconic industries – agriculture, construction, resources and tourism.

These are the industries which stand behind this joint election platform.

According to Treasury, our industries directly create 23% of the Queensland economy and directly employ 17% (or 470,000) of Queensland's workforce.

While our industries are diverse, our members have a shared interest in good policy and good Government.

This platform is a non-partisan explanation of what industry needs from the next Government to secure the ongoing benefit from our industries to Queensland and Queenslanders.

OUR SECTORS COMBINED
DIRECTLY PROVIDE MORE THAN



470,000

JOBS FOR QUEENSLANDERS

AND

23% OF QLD'S ECONOMY

IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Our sectors interact with the environment in a sustainable way. We can further enhance this strong track record of environmental management to the benefit of the state if we have a Government which:

- Recognises the work that our industries have done as **land custodians**. Our industries have set high standards through a combination of codes, standards and best management practices – the value of these voluntary outcomes should be recognised and supported.
- Recognises the many **environmental co-benefits** from production activities and best management practices
- Works with industry to determine **regulatory settings** which are positive, evidence-based and effective. This is through a combination of undertaking **genuine and transparent consultation** on proposed reforms.
- Standardises and simplifies **overlapping environmental and planning regulations**, bodies and processes.
- Continues to invest in **good quality land management**, be it on state land (funding National Parks and Forestry) or private lands - or as part of improving the health of the highly valuable natural assets such as the Great Barrier Reef.
- Support **diversification on state lands**, such as national parks where it can be done sustainably.

BUILD BUSINESS CONFIDENCE THROUGH INNOVATION, INVESTMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

While our businesses value being in Queensland, the high costs and taxes involved make it a challenge to remain competitive. We need a Government which focusses on innovation and adapts to new challenges and opportunities of the global economy at the same time as ensuring that any state-based costs are fair and reasonable. Infrastructure investment, particularly in regional areas is vital. In particular, we need Government to:

- Ensure **rating fairness** for Queensland.
- Ensure **tax stability and competitiveness**.
- Implement a focussed strategy to **cut energy costs** for all users, particularly in the regions.
- Work with industry to **understand and identify key freight barriers**.
- Maximise **investment in infrastructure** by having a strategy which leverages all other funding sources.
- Work cooperatively with the Federal Government to **enhance mobile and wireless coverage** as well as target blackspots.
- Look at **infrastructure as an enabler of regional growth** and a connector for regions – eg dams, roads, airports, rail lines, power lines can all open up new opportunities to grow and diversify the Queensland economy.
- Focus on **capacity building through investment** in soft infrastructure, skills development and appropriate industry incentives which are critical in building long-term competitiveness.

COMMIT TO FACT-BASED POLICIES

Investors are looking for predictable and enduring policies anchored in evidence based research. Industry is seeking a regulatory system which is globally attractive and internationally competitive and look to Government to:

- Ensure our unicameral Parliament has an **effective and transparent review mechanism**.
- Guarantee **evidence-based planning decisions**.
- Commit to a **genuine regulatory impact process** for all major legislative changes.

WORK WITH INDUSTRY TO IDENTIFY, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS

Many industry issues stretch across multiple Ministers and departments and require a cross-sectoral approach. Each industry sector would benefit from a **targeted roundtable** to bring together key industry and Ministerial representatives. Such a collaborative, cross-sectoral forum would greatly assist in mapping a vision for the future, developing agreed solutions, implementing and tracking progress.

PURSUE A GENUINE REGIONAL AGENDA

The basis of much of Queensland's economy is regional, so we need a Government with strong regional policy, which:

- Recognises that **strong, vibrant and dynamic regions** are more likely to retain and attract employees and their families which then builds critical mass for the viability of regional centres. **Continued investment in regional strategies** is integral for growth.
- A **senior economic Minister for Regional Development** should be well placed in the next Government to ensure that Queensland maximises the benefits of the NAIF fund and also to ensure that the regional aspects of Government decisions are explicitly considered as part of the normal Cabinet process. This Minister should be a key participant at the industry roundtables.



AGFORCE

the peak organisation representing Queensland's beef, sheep and wool, and grain producers



PROPERTY COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

the leading advocate for Australia's property industry



QUEENSLAND RESOURCES COUNCIL

the peak industry association representing the commercial developers of Queensland's minerals & energy resources



QUEENSLAND TOURISM INDUSTRY COUNCIL

the peak industry body for tourism in Queensland, acting as "The Voice of Tourism"



TIMBER QUEENSLAND

supports and encourages the development and expansion of the forest & timber industries



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