



12 February, 2015

Mr Rob Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa  
& Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple  
Parliament House  
George Street  
**BRISBANE Qld 4000**

Dear Mr Katter and Mr Knuth

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you both on your re-election to the Queensland Parliament and to respond to your letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> February outlining structural changes, policy and projects of importance to *Katter's Australian Party* in the 55<sup>th</sup> Parliament.

Importantly the undertakings I give in this letter would apply even if, at some future date during this term, the *LNP* was able to form a government without requiring the support of *KAP* MPs.

While the *LNP* secured a significantly higher vote at the State Election than the Labor Party, Queenslanders have voted for a hung parliament; and I believe very strongly that all sides of politics need to embrace this opportunity for a more consultative approach to decision making in Queensland.

I trust the commitments I give in this letter go a long way towards meeting these expectations and to demonstrating what can be achieved with an experienced team.

Before addressing the specific issues raised, I would like to outline a framework for fiscal management and government accountability that would become the hallmarks of an *LNP* administration under my leadership.

I give a clear commitment to Queenslanders that:

**Queensland's Finances:**

1. Queensland's fiscal and economic framework must grow the economy, manage expenditure and return to budget surpluses in order to manage \$80 billion in government debt and to restore a AAA credit rating.
2. There will be no leasing or sale of government-owned corporations.
3. The size of government must be properly managed through a continuing focus on boosting frontline services and frontline jobs.
4. Payroll tax will be reduced by increasing the threshold by \$100,000 each year for the term of the next Parliament, to ensure maximum job creation.

5. The Queensland Labor Party would be provided an opportunity to submit its proposed \$1.7 billion in savings and initiatives for consideration in the 2015/16 State Budget.

### **Queensland Parliament:**

To ensure Queenslanders are served with a more accountable Parliament, an LNP Government would:

6. Conduct a referendum on fixed four-year parliamentary terms during the current parliamentary term.
7. Ensure private member's bills introduced by members of the cross-bench are debated within 12 months of introduction.
8. Ensure cross-benchers are represented in the Estimates process and Committee system of the State Parliament.
9. Ensure appropriate resourcing for cross-benchers to assess and analyse legislation including an additional electorate officer and policy adviser for each crossbench member; an additional policy adviser for the Parliamentary Leader of *KAP*, and the ability to be provided with independent briefings by senior public servants on policy issues or proposed legislation.
10. Pursue a legislative framework where in-principle support from cross-benchers is sought prior to the introduction of a Bill to the State Parliament.

### **Governance:**

To deliver greater confidence and integrity in government and government decision-making I undertake that an LNP Government would:

11. Require the State's *Integrity Commissioner* to be present at Cabinet deliberations where discussions are held on appointments, project approvals or other Cabinet submissions raising integrity issues.
12. Ensure the *Integrity Commissioner* is given simultaneous notification of the Cabinet Bag, as that of Cabinet Ministers, so the Commissioner can determine attendance.
13. Appoint Directors-General for the term of the government when positions become vacant.
14. Seek bipartisan approval from the Leader of the Opposition where it is proposed that the appointment of a Director-General be for greater than the term of government.

### **Specific Structural/Policy/Projects:**

An LNP administration under my leadership is committed to reducing the costs of living and will:

15. Maintain the Universal Tariff Policy (UTP) - worth \$662 million in 2014-15 alone - so that people living in the north pay the same price for their electricity as those in the southeast.

16. Establish an all-party parliamentary committee into electricity pricing to take public submissions and to report to the Queensland Parliament with recommendations as to how to reduce electricity prices. An LNP Government would support the nomination of a KAP MP to Chair the committee.

Our focus on rural and regional jobs and growing the regional economy will be underpinned with a commitment to:

17. Give local councils priority for local roads and maintenance projects.
18. Develop a framework in rural and remote areas for procurement contracts that give weightage in favour of locally based suppliers of goods and services.
19. Deliver on the LNP's election commitment to reject any mining application that advocates 100% fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers;
20. Support the principle of choice in residency for mine workforces, and support the principle that no more than 70% of a workforce for a new mine be FIFO unless exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated as part of an application (with reasons for exceptional circumstance to be published at the time of granting an application).
21. Apply community service obligations to ensure below rail QR staff numbers are retained in western and north western Queensland; reaffirm the LNP's policy that there are no plans to downsize *RoadTek* staffing levels or to close any *Ergon* depots.
22. Provide growth and economic certainty to Queensland's agricultural sector by ensuring tenure security, maintenance of existing property rights, the development of new water resources, the efficient pricing of electricity and water inputs, and opportunities to ensure farmers can access the best market opportunities and a fair deal in their product marketing (with legislation if necessary).
23. Supports the upcoming review of the *National Bovine Johne's Disease Program* and supports the relaxing of eligibility criteria for the *BJD Assistance Scheme* along with a review of automatic quarantine processes under the current *BJD* policy.
24. Establish a *Queensland Regional Finance and Insurance Corporation* to assist rural farming and other small business enterprises that are finding it difficult to maintain viability, to invest in improved capacity, and enable these businesses to plan and deliver improved returns over the medium to long term.
25. Introduce a Bill to mandate Ethanol in fuel (consistent with the current State Election platform of KAP and the previous State Election platforms of the *LNP* under my leadership) with an implementation board to consult with industry bodies to determine content levels and an agreed phased timeframe to achieve that level. The Chair of the board would be by agreement between the Premier and the Parliamentary Leader of KAP.
26. Develop the Galilee Basin and establish the '*Galilee Basin Development Commission*' to oversee the development of common user state-owned infrastructure with access provided to project proponents on commercial terms. The Parliamentary Leader of the KAP would chair such a commission with its structure and governance subject to input and approval from the Integrity Commissioner.
27. Develop a framework within which a portion of future natural gas tenements is reserved for domestic use.

28. Enhancing the live cattle export trade and recognise the industry's associated jobs and development opportunities in north Queensland including in indigenous communities.
29. Maintain the LNP's "*Royalties for the Regions*" program to ensure investment in regional Queensland with a guaranteed percentage of funds quarantined to ensure a fair share of revenue is invested back into each resource area; along with an additional \$10 million for the creation of a standalone fund for the preservation and promotion of heritage and historical projects.
30. Continued investment in the development of Queensland's highway and road infrastructure including the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, Warrego and Bruce Highway upgrades, the Hann Highway and an inland alternative to the Bruce Highway to ensure faster, safer year-round travel for Queenslanders.
31. Continue lobbying the federal government for reforms of the Federal Assistance Grants to local governments.
32. Work with local governments to establish flexible Fatigue Management Laws - with appropriate safety measures - modelled on those introduced by the LNP that allowed flexibility for the agricultural industry to operate outside the 160km zone.
33. Work with KAP to explore funding options to follow the scoping for an Upper Burdekin sugar industry water supply scheme that provides for water harvesting from bores of 20 000 megalitres and another 20 000 megalitres from dams / weirs on the Basalt River and Allingham Creeks.
34. Allocate additional water based on the recently completed scoping study for the Flinders and Gilbert River systems - including 250 gigalitres from the Flinders River and 450 gigalitres from the Gilbert River.
35. Recognises KAP will introduce an amended *Fair Milk Private Member's Bill* for the Government and the Parliament to consider.

#### **Frontline Services:**

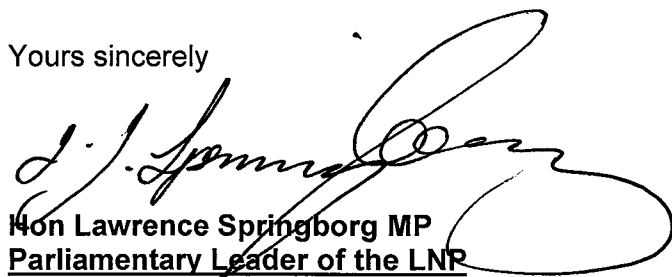
As a part of our commitment to rebuilding frontline services across Queensland:

36. An LNP Government will continue to boost frontline services and jobs across Queensland by delivering on its commitment to increase health funding that will generate an estimated 2650 frontline health jobs over the next three years including 490 doctors; 1700 additional nurses; and 464 additional health practitioners.
37. An LNP Government will deliver on its "Wait Time Guarantee" to continue to drive down both elective surgery and outpatient waiting-lists; and will continue to expand rural dental services.
38. As a part of our commitment to providing incentives for nursing in rural Queensland, an LNP Government in the forthcoming year alone commits to providing for an additional 105 new rural graduate nursing positions; doubling the number of rural generalist doctors to 80; and to invest a further \$30.9 million in Rural Telehealth Services as part of an \$82 million Revitalisation of regional, rural and remote services package.

39. An LNP government would build on its track record of having doubled the patient travel subsidy for rural and regional Queenslanders (from \$30 per night under Labor to \$60, and from 15 cents to 30 cents per kilometre travelled), by not only streamlining application processes, but also to fast-tracking payment re-imbusement for patients.
40. An LNP government will continue to re-open birthing and maternity services closed by previous governments; with a commitment to returning birthing services to Ingham, Charters Towers, Weipa, Mossman and Cloncurry during the next parliamentary term. In the forthcoming year alone, an LNP Government will also provide funding for an additional 50 new rural and regional midwives.
41. An LNP Government will deliver an estimated 537 additional (FTE) teachers; and 1502 additional teacher-aid hours in 2016;
42. An LNP Government – consistent with my 2009 election pledge when I sought the office of Premier – would be committed to the principle of no forced redundancies in the public service; and support natural attrition and the offering of VERs in workforces identified as over-sized.
43. An LNP Government will not downsize the Rural Fire Service in Queensland, and emphasises that the service has received a 23.4% increase in funding since 2012 under the previous Labor government.
44. An LNP Government understands the need to review the modelling and resourcing of rescue helicopter services throughout Queensland and supports the current plan to merge *North Queensland Rescue Helicopter Service* with the *Careflight* network to ensure the necessary financial and fundraising resources.
45. An LNP Government supports the extension of the lifespan of Glencore's copper-smelting operations in Mount Isa and will deliver on its election commitment to make legislative changes to ensure certainty for the operation.

I believe the commitments to Queenslanders contained in this letter are the hallmarks of a dedicated team able to deliver experience, certainty and a fully costed pathway for Queensland's future.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Lawrence Springborg MP**  
**Parliamentary Leader of the LNP**