

1 Commitment to support and help fund greater empowerment of local government.

The Greens strongly support the desire of local government for greater empowerment of people and communities at local level. This is consistent with one of the core, founding principles of the Greens party and is a central value which the party remains strongly committed to. We support funding arrangements which allow greater certainty and autonomy for local government, including long-term contractual arrangements. The Greens also strongly support proposed amendments to the Australian Constitution to specifically recognise local government - a change which would increase the opportunities to strengthen the effectiveness and autonomy of local government. Despite this Constitutional amendment also being supported in principle by the Labor and Liberal parties, this issue is only being put to a referendum because of the Greens' decision to make this a condition of our support for the federal Labor government.

2 The introduction of a five year \$150 million per annum infrastructure funding program for council which can demonstrate impacts from resource industry activity in their communities.

The Greens support extra resources being provided for infrastructure to deal with impacts from resource industry activity, as long as this infrastructure does not serve to impair rapid movement to a clean energy economy in Queensland. The Greens are on the record in fighting for a greater share of the super-profits from the current mining boom to be provided to the wider community, some of which is needed to deal with the negative economic, social and environmental impacts of resource industry activities.

3 Reintroduction of a \$100 million per annum capital subsidy scheme for council water and sewerage infrastructure.

The Greens support the reintroduction of a capital subsidy scheme for water and sewerage infrastructure. These subsidies should not occur in isolation from the need to improve standards on water efficiency and reuse, and should only be provided after satisfactory environmental assessments have been completed and it can be demonstrated that the proposed infrastructure meets adequate long-term economic, environmental and sustainable water usage benchmarks.

4 Commitment that all revenue generated from the waste levy be hypothecated back to councils.

The Greens commit to ensuring that Councils are not financially worse off as a result of the implementation of the waste disposal levy, whilst holding the view that automatic hypothecation of all revenue generated from the levy back to Councils is not the only way of ensuring this occurs. It is appropriate for there to be flexibility in the distribution of funds raised through this levy, including for components of it to be applied to measures such as National Parks acquisition, habitat protection and koala rescue. The Greens also support the introduction of Container Deposit Legislation, which has worked successfully in South Australia for many years, substantially reducing certain types of waste.

5 Commitment to a State Population Strategy, focussing on regionalisation and decentralisation.

The Greens support the rapid development of regional and state population strategies. We recognise that population is a global issue that cannot be dealt with in isolation at a local level, but also believe that strategies which explore regionalisation and decentralisation options are an essential part of effective long-term planning for reducing or avoiding pressures on infrastructure and the environment. This must include the need to protect biodiversity and other environmental values and to not allow population pressures to be used as an excuse to irretrievably damage these.

6 Commitment to ensure elected councillors continue to have a determining role in the development assessment process, and the ULDA not declare Urban Development areas without prior local council approval.

The Greens commit not to introduce mandatory independent development assessment boards or to remove Local Government elected members' rights to determine development applications. We also support a review of the ULDA legislation and the introduction of a legislated requirement that the ULDA not declare Urban Development Areas without prior local council approval or proper regard to environmental values.

7 A new policy for Infrastructure External to State Government Sites and Non State Schools.

Whilst not being able to commit to a specific dollar figure or formula, the Greens support the principle of ensuring that proper accounting and recompense occurs for extra cost burdens on local government infrastructure as a result of state government and other public buildings.

8 Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils.

The Greens strongly support the need to ensure fundamental change to the delivery of government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities and to improve the sustainability, viability and autonomy of Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Councils and their delivery of services. The Greens commit to working with the LGAQ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Council Leadership Council to assist in bringing this change about.

9 A Commitment to ensure that Health Services meet the requirements of present and future South Burnett residents

The Greens have a complete and comprehensive Health Policy for the State of Queensland. The Greens will commit to advocate for all the funding required to fulfill the requirements for the Health services within the South Burnett region. We see the Health system failing residents drastically and urgent funding and upgrading of all services is required.

10 A Commitment to ensure improved funding to Local Government for local roads and a reversal of the trend of declining Main Roads construction and maintenance.

The Greens are committed to working with Local Councils for all requirements regarding funding for local roads. The Greens are aware of the urgent requirement for the State roads to be upgraded and will push for more funding to be released for both local and State roads. Access to the South Burnett will be a priority so that the economic future of the Region can continue to grow

Response from the Queensland Greens
to the South East Queensland Council of Mayors
State Election Survey 2012

Planning:

1. Is your party committed to returning the planning powers stripped from local government and given to the ULDA back to democratically elected SEQ Councils within the next term, with the option for Councils to engage the ULDA at their discretion?

Yes.

2. Is your party committed to reducing planning and development assessment timeframes by a comprehensive review of all the State referral triggers and interests and the performance of State agencies?

The Qld Greens are supportive of a review of such matters, but would not support changes being made solely on the basis of reducing planning and assessment timeframes. The review needs to consider if changes to assessment processes are needed to improve the quality of environmental assessment, or the opportunity for input from the community on proposals that directly affect them.

3. Is your party committed to recognising local governments as the principal land use planning authority in SEQ and to minimising State encroachments into the planning authority?

The Qld Greens support local governments as the principal land use planning authority throughout the state. We support that authority being exercised within the bounds of clearly defined legislated responsibilities at state level and within any appropriate agreements reached with either state or federal governments. We do not support state governments or Ministers having open-ended powers to intervene or encroach on that authority.

4. Is your party committed to further refinement of the SEQ Regional Plan to be developed in genuine and collaborative partnership with SEQ councils, particularly in better linking of infrastructure delivery and resourcing to planning and other strategies to improve economic development, liveability and sustainability in the SEQ Region?

The Queensland Greens agree this better linking is needed. However, the SEQ Regional Plan needs not merely refinement, it also needs significant further improvements so that it better protects biodiversity in our region, for example by maintaining important wildlife corridors.

Infrastructure:

1. Is your party committed to maintain investment in infrastructure in the fast growing SEQ region to at least the average of the last three years (\$6 billion p.a.) in real terms at least over the next three years?

The Queensland Greens support maintaining current levels of infrastructure investment in real terms in the SEQ region for at least the next three years.

2. Will your party commit to funding the projects identified by SEQ Councils as priority projects over the next three years?

If in government, the Queensland Greens would commit to ensuring government funding is provided to such projects, as long as funding can be provided within the constraints of the current budget forward estimates and subject to each project meeting adequate independent environmental and social impact assessments.

3. Will your party commit to co-funding the projects identified by SEQ Councils as projects of national significance with the Federal Government in the short to medium term?

Yes, subject to each project meeting adequate independent environmental and social impact assessments.

4. Will your party commit to working in full genuine and collaborative partnership with SEQ Councils on infrastructure planning and delivery in SEQ over the next three years?

Yes

5. Will your party commit to co-funding partnership with SEQ Council to extend the SEQ Cycle Network Program?

Yes

Water:

1. Will your party commit to giving councils full control on the appropriate form of their water distribution and retail entities?

Yes, subject to Councils deciding to delegate that control to the state government.

2. Will your party commit to reducing the price path of State bulk water charges over the next five years by reviewing the current price path and extending the time frame for repaying SEQ water grid debt?

Yes

3. Will your party commit to developing a consistent and common sense approach to price setting and regulatory frameworks across the water sector in genuine partnership with SEQ councils?

The Queensland Greens commit to ensuring a consistent and fair approach to price setting and regulatory frameworks across the water sector is developed in partnership with SEQ

Councils.

4. Will your party reinstate the 40% State capital subsidy for major new water and sewerage infrastructure works?

The Queensland Greens believe that not all past major water infrastructure works have been wise decisions from both an economic and wise water use perspective. The Greens support extra state capital assistance being provided for proposed major new water and sewerage infrastructures project where it can be demonstrated that these meet adequate long-term economic, environmental and sustainable water usage benchmarks.

Environment:

1. Is your party committed to a new major funding program to improve the water quality in the waterways and bays of SEQ?

The Queensland Greens support extra resources being provided to improve the water quality of SEQ's waterways and bays, although such a funding program should be coupled with other non-spending measures which would address the causes of degradations in water quality.

2. Is your party committed to working with SEQ Councils to address the impacts of climate change in SEQ, including ensuring Councils do not face compensation claims where planning schemes need to be changed to address climate change impacts?

Yes, the Queensland Greens are strongly committed to working with SEQ Councils to address the impacts of climate change. We also seek to work with SEQ Councils to adopt measures which would significantly reduce per capita greenhouse emissions in the region. We would support Councils being exempt from compensation claims where planning schemes need to be changed to address climate change impacts, except in cases where it could be demonstrated that a Council had been clearly negligent in adopting relevant aspects of the preceding planning scheme.

3. Will your party remove the need for councils to pay transfer duty to the state on land acquired by Councils for conservation or flood mitigation purposes?

Yes, where it can be demonstrated that such land acquisitions are for genuine conservation or flood mitigation purposes, and that an adequate ongoing management scheme is put in place to ensure the conservation values of land acquired for such purposes are protected and maintained.

4. Will your party commit to ensuring mining and gas exploration does not proceed in SEQ in areas where the community does not want the industry to proceed?

Absolutely.

5. Will your party agree to increase the funding to Biosecurity Queensland to address weed and pest issues in SEQ?

Yes.

6. Will your party agree to the rollout of a comprehensive State waste Strategy to be rolled out in partnership with councils and industry, with any proceeds to be raised from any waste levy to be fully hypothecated to implementation of the waste strategy?

The Queensland Greens are supportive of this generally, in conjunction with the implementation of a statewide container deposit scheme. However we would like to see a substantial amount of the funds raised support National Parks Acquisition and koala rescue.