

HOW THE PARTIES INTEND TO SUPERCHARGE THE REGION that helps SUPERCHARGE THE STATE

On 28 August 2020, the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils wrote to each of the major parties and independent candidate contesting the election seeking a response on the priorities that will help communities across North West Queensland grow and prosper.

Queensland Labor, Katter's Australian Party, Liberal National Party and Independent Craig Scriven have each responded. Our assessment of their response has formed the basis of our scorecard below.

OUR RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

WHAT THE CANDIDATES TOLD US



GOOD



Directly addressed with positive response



FAIR



Partially addressed or included in state-wide response



POOR



Not addressed at all / or negative response

ALP Welcome undertakings have been given regarding roads, connectivity, energy, housing and a wide range of NWQROC priorities. Several relate to prior commitments and continuing works which will support the North West's economic recovery. Increased funding for specific areas of roads and water infrastructure have not been forthcoming but with increased QTRIP funding to be considered in next budget. There are no specific future investment commitments undertaken around land management, and biodiversity. The commitment to continue Works for Queensland is most welcome as well as a specific undertaking to continue working with NWQROC on identified priorities including water infrastructure.



"The Palaszczuk Labor Government has put Queensland on the road to recovery by making strong decisions on the border and starting to deliver our economic recovery plan. We acknowledge the productive working relationship the government has had with NWQROC and the role NWQROC's eight local governments have played in delivering services to Queenslanders and driving regional economies."

"While many economies around the world are still shut down because of the global pandemic, the Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong health response has ensured that we're able to focus on our economic recovery."

KAP Katter's Australian Party has strongly supported road, water and power initiatives in train and given a welcome commitment to the establishment of a North Queensland Future fund tapping into the State Government's \$5 billion Queensland Future Fund to identify and build key priorities in the North. Specific support for key North West priorities from this fund has not been indicated. Meaningful initiatives for indigenous communities in housing have been identified as well as support for LGAQ's Advancing of First Nation Councils.



"Mr Katter said he was committed to putting Traeger in the driving seat when it came to bolstering the economy in the wake of COVID-19, with key investments in water, power, health and living affordability."

"The major parties have been heavily-criticised for their lack of a COVID economic recovery plan, but the KAP is ahead of the game and has already mapped out a robust strategy to fuel huge growth in Traeger."

"I am committed to endeavouring to acknowledge and address a wide range of issues affecting Traeger and believe everyone should felt heard in helping shape the future of North Queensland and beyond."

LNP The LNP has provided a broad level of support for NWQROC priorities including a welcome commitment to continuing Works for Queensland. Consideration to increasing QTRIP and TIDs is also welcomed together with moves to increase council workforce access to roadworks on State controlled roads. Undertakings to address housing shortages and support biosecurity, pest and weeds management initiatives will be welcomed across the region. The \$1 billion Queensland Investment Partnerships, would be open to councils and receive project proposals involving tourism, housing, water, and technology. Support for increased access fibre optic infrastructure is also welcomed.



"It should be acknowledged that the public balance sheet alone cannot dig Queensland out of trouble. The state will urgently need the support of the private sector to get the recovery going. This is the reason we have committed to a no new tax guarantee to encourage private sector investment in projects all across the State."

"It is our contention that Queenslanders want a plan to stimulate the economy and provide a decade of secure jobs – and that is what the LNP will deliver. Our commitment to building a stronger economy will enable more investment in the initiatives being sought by NWQROC."

"The LNP will work collaboratively with NWQROC and its member Councils in a strategic partnership approach towards the economic recovery of the region."

IND The response received, focusses solely on the irrigation developments, specifically chemicals used in large scale irrigation and the subsequent impacts to the meat and livestock sector. Mr Scriven supports smaller scale irrigation farming.



"I was extremely encouraged to hear an interview with the Cloncurry Mayer (sic) regarding the use of treated water for an irrigation project at the local racetrack. I believe they have a 1Mgl/day output, and to put that into perspective with irrigation, 1Mgl of water equals 100mm of rain per Ha. "

| Election Asks | Party | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | ALP | KAP | LNP | IND |
| Increased and long-term funding certainty for our roads network | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| \$8.3 million additional Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding over four years. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| Increased and consistent funding allocations to the 'North West District' under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program (QTRIP). | ○ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| A targeted program to fund immediate upgrades and progressive sealing of critical road links and strategic road corridors. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| New management and operating model for the Karumba Port | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| Funding for a feasibility study to assess the benefits and costs of transferring control of Karumba Port from Ports North to the Port of Townsville | ○ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| The appointment of a Port of Townsville Board Director from the State's North West region. | ✓ | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ |
| Investment in key region shaping water projects | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Richmond Irrigated Agriculture Project - Richmond Shire Council (\$210 million) The Cave Hill Dam - Cloncurry Shire Council (\$460 million) Flinders River Irrigation Projects – Flinders Shire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 15 Mile Irrigated Agriculture Project Stage 2 - Flinders Shire Council Hughenden Irrigation Project – HIPCo | ○ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| Realistic waste management strategies | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| Support for an independent review of the impacts of the State Government's Waste Disposal Levy on Mount Isa City Council and community. | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ |
| Addressing the high cost of energy for communities and businesses | ☺️ | ☺️ | ☺️ | ☹️ |
| Additional funding and timely implementation of the commitments in the Powering North Queensland Plan (or similar) | ✓ | ○ | ○ | ✘ |
| Continued State Government action to fast-track the CopperString 2.0 project to ensure it can commence construction in 2021. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✘ |
| State Government commitment to integrate the North West Minerals Province into the National Electricity Market. | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✘ |

| Election Asks | Party | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| | ALP | KAP | LNP | IND |
| Addressing the substandard connectivity options facing communities and businesses | ☺️ | ☹️ | ☺️ | ☹️ |
| Investment in existing funding programs such as Building our Regions to be bolstered, or for a dedicated stream of funding to be made available for telecommunications / digital connectivity projects in rural and remote communities. | ○ | ✘ | ○ | ✘ |
| State Government support for the transparent identification of available fibre optic networks across the North West. | ✘ | ✘ | ✓ | ✘ |
| State Government action to ensure the significant fibre optic capacity associated with the CopperString 2.0 Project is used to maximise fast, reliable and affordable digital connectivity across the State's North West. | ✓ | ✘ | ○ | ✘ |
| Support local and regionally based approaches to more productive land management, water and biodiversity | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☺️ | ☹️ |
| Increased and sustained funding for the Natural Resources Investment Program (or similar) over four years. | ○ | ✘ | ✓ | ✘ |
| Increased and sustained funding for the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative. | ○ | ✘ | ✓ | ✘ |
| \$4 million additional funding per annum over four years to support the vital work of the Northern Gulf Regional Management Group and Southern Gulf NRM. | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ |
| Increased and sustained funding for the successful Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ | ✘ |
| Support community liveability through improved housing | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| A dedicated grant or expansion of the 'First Home Owner' grant for the purchase of existing housing stock. | ✓ | ✘ | ○ | ✘ |
| A dedicated program to support local governments in rural and remote areas to construct new homes to provide housing stock for on-sale or rental. | ✘ | ✘ | ○ | ✘ |
| Continued support for The National Partnership on Remote Housing as a means to help 'close the gap' and improve the health, employment and education opportunities for our Indigenous communities. | ✓ | ○ | ✘ | ✘ |
| Sponsoring regionally based organisations | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| Financial support for NWQROC projects and initiatives. | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Developing 'place based' policies, programs and funding arrangements to best serve the needs of North West Queensland | ☺️ | ☹️ | ☹️ | ☹️ |
| Dedicated funding to support the timely implementation of the priorities and actions outlined in the North West Queensland Economic Diversification Strategy and North West Queensland (COVID-19) Regional Recovery Strategy | ✓ | ✘ | ○ | ✘ |