



COMMITTEE
FOR BRISBANE



ALP POLICY COMMITMENT REQUESTS FOR STATE ELECTION 2020

September 2020



About the Committee for Brisbane

The Committee for Brisbane is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that is committed to helping shape greater Brisbane as the world's most liveable region.

For more than 60 years, the Committee has been an influential, apolitical organisation providing strong advocacy to create a better greater Brisbane. Industry and community development are at the heart of our activities, with a focus on infrastructure investment, environment, tourism and cultural development.

Our members come from diverse areas of business, government, the education sector and community and have an interest in the future of greater Brisbane and are actively involved in creating a better region.

The Committee for Brisbane asks that, if the ALP is re-elected on 31 October, it will give due consideration to the following 10 projects to support economic growth and sustainability.

1. A Commission for the New Economy

- **Establish a “Commission for the New Economy”, drawn from corporate leaders and senior government bureaucrats, that is charged with considering and stress-testing big ideas to present to the government to restructure and boost our State economy.**

The economic disruption from COVID will be long-term, and terminal for some parts of the Queensland economy, and a Business as Usual approach to forward planning and policy-making will fail. Innovation and adaptability will be key to Queensland's new economic success.

Among Queensland's corporate leaders are those with the expertise and life and business experience to help chart the bold courses back to economic success, including opportunities for structural reform. The task of designing Queensland's economic recovery can be championed by those who drive the economy, working in partnership with the State Government, industry associations and others.

Economic recovery and stability has the best chance of success when government policy levers and funding decisions are informed by the knowledge and experience of the business sector that has skin in the game, understands risk and makes the business decisions that drive the economy and innovation.

2. “Brisbane as HQ” program

- **In partnership with the private sector, develop a suite of business and talent attraction incentives for companies to headquarter in Queensland.**

The Queensland response to COVID-19 has put its capital city in a strong position to attract and retain new businesses and talent. Committee for Brisbane members (professional services firms) confirm that southern-based staff are relocating their families permanently to Brisbane/SEQ to take advantage of new remote working arrangements, married with our enviable lifestyle. This presents a unique opportunity for Brisbane and south east Queensland.

“Brisbane as HQ” incentives could include, for example: fast tracked approvals for new housing for relocated staff; a stamp duty holiday for interstate executive transfers; sliding scale pre-payments from government on commercial rents for interstate company relocations (with a higher incentive to relocate to a Greenstar building); an SEQ lifestyle rebate or tax treatment so interstate immigrants receive a “lifestyle credit” to spend on local tourism/hospitality outlets and stimulate spending in COVID-impacted industries.

The long term/permanent benefits to Queensland would include more jobs and career pathways and more taxes paid to the State.

3. SEQ City Deal

- **Re-engage with the Federal Government and COM(SEQ) to progress the south east Queensland City Deal as a matter of priority.**

The postponement of the SEQ City Deal to sometime in 2021 has left the community in limbo with respect to its regional infrastructure future.

The March 2019 acknowledgement by the Federal and State Governments and COM(SEC) that south east Queensland is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia still stands true. The joint statement that, in the period to 2041, the region is expected to accommodate an additional 1.9 million residents, almost 800,000 new homes and support one million new jobs also remains true. The change has been the pausing of discussions between governments and a postponement of outcomes, blamed on COVID. And yet, new City Deals are being announced and progressed in Victoria, NSW and Tasmania – citing economic recovery from COVID as the driver. Planning for SEQ's future cannot wait.

4. The 45-minute region

- **Fund the business case for a 45-minute region to connect our key activity and growth centres.**

Better physical and digital interconnectedness between the region's existing and future residential and employment centres will unlock tens of billions of dollars of economic opportunity. We can plan for and shape mobility and connectivity within the region to support economic productivity and sustainability, as well as improved liveability and environmental sustainability.

5. Circular economy and carbon neutrality

- **Undertake a detailed review of State Government operations, policies, energy production and use, and supply chains to embed circular economy and carbon neutral principles into "Business As Usual" activities, to rebuild the State economy with strong environmental credentials.**

Queensland has the opportunity to transition into a post-carbon economic powerhouse characterised by:

- A systematic and lasting shift towards renewables in the State's energy investment and use (the Committee acknowledges and applauds the State Government's recent Renewable Energy Zones announcement)
- Linking COVID recovery goals with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on global temperature rise
- Pursuing energy and environmental management policies that harness innovation to build economic resilience, drive long-term jobs growth and improve ecological and community health

6. Review of planning frameworks

- **Review *ShapingSEQ (the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017)* to account for post-COVID impacts.**

Long-term population growth patterns for the region are likely to change, including from diminished international migration. Changes to citizen mobility through lower demand for public transport and more flexible (work from home) arrangements will impact on transport and commercial centre planning. Our population forecasts and mobility and settlement patterns must be reassessed and the updated data used to inform a revised Regional Plan.

- **Update the *State Infrastructure Plan* to account for post-COVID impacts.**

Use the scheduled 2021 (five-yearly) review of the *State Infrastructure Plan* to consult meaningfully with industry to reset infrastructure planning and delivery across the State for post-COVID recovery. As with impacts on the Regional Plan, changes to citizen mobility, population growth and settlement patterns must inform a revised *State Infrastructure Plan*. Critical to the State's ability to deliver significant infrastructure should be an assessment of alternate funding models and incentives to attract more private sector investment.

7. Review of project financing and procurement

- **Undertake a review to improve the financing, contracting, procurement and approval processes for development, construction and infrastructure projects - to stimulate and support economic recovery.**

A review would include, but not be limited to:

- Simplifying government procurement processes (incentives, transparency of process and decision making) and removing barriers to deliver efficiency. This should include a “root and branch” review, in partnership with the development and infrastructure sectors, to improve lengthy and complex assessment and approval processes and modernise Queensland's planning laws.
- Ensuring that project proponents are genuinely encouraged to suggest innovative responses that benefit a project and/or the community, by awarding contracts based on the value proposition, not just price.
- Conducting a “no agendas” review of project financing models, including the use of borrowings and the reuse/recycling of state-owned capital, including land. No funding model should be excluded from a review that must assess any model against best value outcomes for the community, including its capacity to pay.

- **Conduct a review to improve project risk-management/sharing.**

Equitable, public and private sector risk sharing is paramount to project success and industry is asking governments at all levels to participate as partial project risk holders. Governments must share some of the burden on projects, particularly at a time when private sector Balance Sheets are under stress. The adoption of “collaborative contracting” is one risk-sharing and project management model for consideration.

The requirement for a coordinated response to economic recovery and the need for the development, construction and infrastructure sectors to play a major part in that recovery provides a golden opportunity to reset how those sectors operate, and engage with government, to set a more sustainable path for the long-term benefit of the community.

8. Social and affordable housing

- **Commit to the 10-step plan to make social and affordable housing a key pillar of Queensland's economic recovery – as proposed by the National Affordable Housing Consortium and the Property Council of Australia (a Committee for Brisbane Affiliate), and conduct a proper consideration and assessment of realistic build-to-rent projects.**

Increased investment in more social and affordable housing will provide people with homes and keep builders building. The demand for more social and affordable housing stock and the need to renew old social housing stock existed before the pandemic. Demand will continue to grow, and private dwelling investment is likely to decline, so the time for the State to invest in and/or support social and affordable housing is now, including housing for NDIS participants and domestic violence victims.

Brisbane's essential workers need access to affordable housing to enable them to live as close as practicably to their employment. The State is urged to conduct, in partnership with the private sector, a detailed assessment of realistic (ie attractive to private sector investors) build-to-rent projects as a counter-cyclical activity to offset a likely dampening of mum-and-dad investment in rental stock.

9. Advanced manufacturing

- **Undertake an analysis of advanced manufacturing opportunities for greater Brisbane.**

In partnership with industry associations and under the framework of the Manufacturing Ministerial Council, identify tangible opportunities, particularly greenfields opportunities, for new advanced manufacturing projects, based on our regional advantages of geographic neighbourhood (for local, interstate and international markets), climate and environment, and knowledge capabilities (access to research and higher education resources).

10. Percentages for art

- **Establish the "1% Fund for Music" - a permanent facility to nurture Queensland's important live music sector.**

The "1% Fund for Music" would be funded by directing 1% of annual liquor licensing fee collections into a special purpose fund that provides grants to artists, technicians and venues for projects and activities that support the growth of Queensland's vibrant live music industry. The live music sector contributes strongly to Queensland's multi-billion dollar entertainment sector that employs tens of thousands of people across a wide range of jobs and skill sets.

- **Establish a Percent for Art scheme across the development of public buildings and provide incentives for a similar scheme in the private sector.**

Via a State Government policy setting, establish a Percent for Art scheme to support art in the built environment by requiring 1% of the construction budget for public works over \$2 million to be spent on artwork in/on new buildings (eg schools, police stations and hospitals).

Queensland's arts and culture communities have been hit harder than many other sectors of the economy as a result of limited government funding to arts organisations and the inability of arts workers to access Federal Government income support programs. Any reasonable initiative to help this sector should be explored.