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FOR BRISBANE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **“Brisbane as HQ” election policy request**

The Committee for Brisbane has called on the major political parties to develop a campaign to attract and incentivise interstate corporations to relocate to Brisbane as a logical place for the new remote-work business community.

The “Brisbane as HQ” request is one of 10 policy commitments sought by the Committee in submissions to the ALP, LNP, Katter’s Australian Party and The Greens this week. *(Full submission can be found here: <https://committeeforbrisbane.org.au/uncategorized/queensland-2020-state-election-policy-commitments-requested/>)*

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.
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.
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.
4. The 45-minute region: Fund the business case for a 45-minute region to connect our key activity and growth centres.
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.
6. Review of planning frameworks: Review ShapingSEQ (the South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017) and update the State Infrastructure Plan to account for post-COVID impacts.
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; and conduct a review to improve project risk-management/sharing.
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.
9. Advanced manufacturing: Undertake an analysis of advanced manufacturing opportunities for greater Brisbane.
10. Percentages for art: Establish the “1% Fund for Music” - a permanent facility to nurture Queensland’s important live music sector; and establish a Percent for Art scheme across the development of public buildings and provide incentives for a similar scheme in the private sector.

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Committee for Brisbane CEO Barton Green said the Queensland response to COVID-19 had put the capital city in a strong position to attract and retain new businesses and talent.

“We are hearing regularly from our members, particularly professional services firms, 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,” Mr Green said.

“This presents a unique opportunity for Brisbane and south east Queensland.

“Why would a corporation keep its managers and workforce in a southern CBD – with half empty offices because huge numbers are working from home - when greater Brisbane offers better commercial and residential affordability and provides a sub-tropical lifestyle that is more attractive for the growing work-from-home phenomena?”

Mr Green said “Brisbane as HQ” incentives could include:

- 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 benefits to Queensland would include more jobs and career pathways and more taxes paid to the State,” Mr Green said.

“One of our other key recommendations is the establishment of 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.”

Mr Green said Queensland’s corporate leaders had 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,” Mr Green said.

“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.”

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*For more information, please contact Committee for Brisbane CEO Barton Green on 0411 702 209.*