

Ms Stacey Rawlings

Queensland Manager

Engineers Australia

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [HKomene@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:HKomene@engineersaustralia.org.au)

Dear Ms Rawlings

#### LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY RESPONSE TO ELECTION SURVEY

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October, 2017 on behalf of your members.

Unfortunately, Queenslanders aren't getting ahead and the community is crying out for leadership because Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor are doing nothing.

Labor is stuck in neutral and Queenslanders are paying the price, through higher car registration, soaring electricity bills and a lack of congestion busting infrastructure.

When our finances aren't managed properly, governments do not have the funds to provide the services that a growing state needs – in our hospitals, a better education for our children, more resources for our police to protect the community from drugs and crime and investing in infrastructure that creates jobs and improves our standard of living.

A Tim Nicholls-led Liberal National government will Build a Better Queensland. The LNP's plan will create jobs, support small business, invest in education to raise standards and provide better services for families and retirees.

An LNP Government has five key priorities to create positive change for Queensland. If elected, we will –

1. Create jobs across Queensland and better manage our finances
2. Take action on the cost of living
3. Better support Queensland families
4. Provide safe and liveable communities
5. Build the roads, bridges and dams we need

#### LNP record

The LNP has a strong record of delivering transformative projects to enhance Queensland's cities and regions. Major investments made in government include the \$10 billion invested in Bruce Highway projects across the state, in partnership with the Federal Government and securing \$1.6 billion for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing – to unlock more productive capacity in the Darling Downs and South West Queensland.

It was the LNP who also had the vision to drive the Queen's Wharf integrated resort development, a project which will completely change the landscape of the Brisbane CBD.

## **Labor fail**

Sadly under the Palaszczuk Labor Government infrastructure spending has plummeted. State Budget figures show that under the current Labor Government spending has dropped from \$11.4 billion in 2014-15 to \$10.2 billion in 2017-18. On average, annual infrastructure spending has declined by \$3 billion.

There is a lack of infrastructure and a lack of activity happening in Queensland under this do-nothing government. We've seen major projects like the ASF development at the Gold Coast scrapped without warning, major projects activity has halved and almost 99 per cent of Market Led Proposals have either been scrapped or remain stalled.

In response to the specific issues raised in your letter:

## **Long term infrastructure planning**

The LNP will be releasing our Better Infrastructure for Queensland plan which sets out our vision for building the infrastructure Queensland needs.

It will include our plans to make targeted investments in the State's South-East and regional centres. Some public commitments already announced include our \$1.3 billion plan to build dams infrastructure across the state, our commitment for a Second M1 on the Gold Coast and putting \$300 million on the table for the duplication of the Sunshine Coast Rail Line between Beerburrum and Landsborough.

As part of our Better Infrastructure for Queensland plan we'll be making the commitment to publish a comprehensive infrastructure plan and pipeline. This pipeline document isn't going to just be a glossy brochure, but a plan that is backed with funding for the delivery of identified projects.

We understand that proper infrastructure delivery and planning doesn't happen in isolation, and proper coordination is required across all levels of government, taking in important stakeholder advice, to deliver the right outcomes.

I'd encourage all members of Engineers Australia to read the LNP's Better Infrastructure for Queensland plan when it is released in full.

As part of the LNP's economic plan to Get Queensland Back in Business and create 500,000 jobs over the next decade, we have made a commitment to 'Unleash the Potential of the Private Sector'. This includes commitments to overhaul the Market Led Proposals process to make it easier to get investment going, streamlining major project approvals and cutting red tape and regulation by 20 per cent.

## **Energy**

The LNP is absolutely committed to delivering cheaper electricity so families, business and industry can get ahead.

Our comprehensive Cheaper Electricity plan will drive down power costs across the state. We'll do this by taking actions like:

- Restructuring Queensland's Generators to increase competition and lower wholesale prices
- Writing-down the Regulated Asset Base of Energy Queensland by \$2 billion so Queenslanders don't pay for Labor's network gold plating
- Freezing executive bonuses until electricity prices decrease
- Putting consumer representatives on the boards of our network businesses

- Scrapping Labor's 50 per cent Renewable Energy Target saving households \$200 a year from 2020
- Building with the private sector a High-Efficiency, Low-Emissions coal fired power station in North Queensland to boost supply, lower prices and create jobs

The LNP has also identified our five-point plan to drive investment in renewable energy in Queensland:

- Through a Resources and Energy Cabinet Committee, develop an efficient regulatory framework to encourage renewable investment in Queensland. Queensland needs a world-class regulatory framework to secure further investment in renewable energy.
- Set up a one-stop shop to facilitate approvals for renewable energy projects.
- Investigate and monitor network linkages to the National Energy Market to ensure renewable energy projects in Queensland have access to the National Energy Market and will protect Queenslanders from excessive volatility in wholesale electricity prices.
- Maintain energy security by constantly monitoring intermittent generation for any threat to reliability of supply for Queenslanders.
- Support the national renewable energy targets that will see more than 23 per cent of Australia's electricity generated from renewables by 2020.

### **STEM Education**

As part of our plan to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy, the LNP will focus on the services, science and technology sector to create jobs – boosting STEM pathways is key to this plan.

Evidence from the former Chief Scientist shows as few as 49.9% of Queensland students achieved at or above the proficient standard in scientific literacy at a Year 6 level. If we are to boost our student engagement in STEM and truly diversify Queensland's economy, we need teachers who are engaged and able to teach the subject matter.

The former Queensland Chief Scientist also reported that most Australian primary school teachers do not have a tertiary background in the major traditional sciences, with less than 20% having some sort of tertiary science education in biology, chemistry or physics.

If we can't get children excited about STEM in primary school we will lose them before they even start their high school journey.

Currently our primary school teachers have limited STEM teaching experience and we can't afford to leave it to secondary schooling to engage students. Early engagement in STEM will help transition young inquiring minds to future greatness.

Without a strong economy, the Government does not have the funds it needs to provide the services that Queenslanders expect and to invest in our future through science and technology.

### **An LNP Government will support STEM by:**

- Providing a pathway to success for our kids with \$3 million in grants of up to \$100,000 to create STEM academies in our local schools, allowing more opportunities for career development and engagement in science and technology from a young age. As part of this initiative, a \$500,000 Best and Brightest Fund will provide assistance to state school students to help compete in interstate and international competitions promoting STEM projects and initiatives.

- Increasing the focus on learning science and technology, with an \$8.5 million investment to boost STEM for primary schools kids through our I-SPY program. Delivering 100 'science labs' for primary schools through grants of up to \$50,000.
- Establishing more Coding Clubs in primary schools with an additional \$500,000 of funding. Around 75 percent of jobs into the future will require STEM skills, coding clubs give students a start to allow them to design and build in a digital environment.
- Partnering with key Universities across Queensland to engage post graduate science students to become STEM buddies to local primary schools. Buddies will help teachers better engage with students in the classroom and also give schools additional support to get the best science experience.

Each of these initiatives is aimed at getting more students, including female students, interested in pursuing STEM careers professionally.

### **Water Security**

The LNP will build more than \$1.3 billion worth of critical water infrastructure and dams across the state.

Under the LNP vital water infrastructure projects the Rookwood Weir, the Urannah Dam, Nulinga Dam and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam will become a reality.

The LNP will also set up a Queensland Dam Company based in regional Queensland to ensure these projects get under way and to ensure future water security is given the priority it deserves.

These commitments to dam infrastructure will absolutely require the enhancement of existing engineering intelligence and these projects will be successfully delivered using emerging technologies.

These dams will support thousands of jobs across the state, provide a real economic boost to major regional communities and halt the slide in major projects investment we've witnessed in Queensland in the last few years.

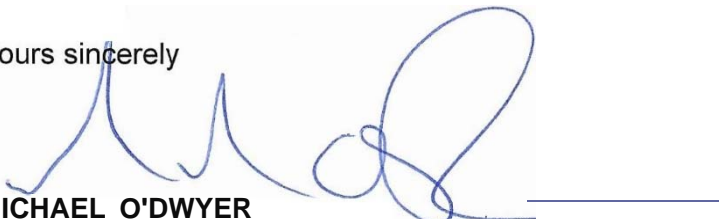
### **Other initiatives**

The LNP is happy to work alongside Engineers Australia to progress other policies and initiatives that will secure a stronger future for this profession.

We have pledged to be a government that listens, plans and acts – and we'll act in concert with key stakeholders and industry groups to ensure we're delivering the right outcomes for the people of Queensland.

Please feel free to share this response directly with your members, or in any regular publication.

Yours sincerely



MICHAEL O'DWYER

State Director