

Stacey Rawlings
Queensland Manager
Engineers Australia

by email only to rawlings@engineersaustralia.org.au

Thursday 16 November 2017

Dear Stacey,

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA POSITION STATEMENT QUEENSLAND GREENS RESPONSE

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your position statement.

The Queensland Greens is the party for our planet and for creating and building our future.

This state election campaign has proven once again that the major parties are incapable of articulating a real positive vision for the future of Queensland - and once again, it has been up to the Greens to show them how it's done.

Engineering as a profession is not only central to so many of the drivers of Queensland's economy, we believe engineers are key to solving our problems today, to build a better tomorrow.

Just this campaign, we've announced a number of massive, fully-costed packages that would be of interest to your members:

- **A Home for All** - The Queensland Greens' plan to build a million affordable homes over 30 years, creating 160,000 jobs in the first ten years. You can find out more at greens.org.au/qld/homeforall.
- **Power for People** - The Queensland Greens' plan to invest \$15 billion over 5 years to build Queensland's secure and publicly-owned sustainable energy future, creating 5,500 jobs every year. You can find out more at greens.org.au/qld/powerpeople.
- **A Queensland Public Infrastructure Bank** - The Queensland Greens' plan to create a \$10 billion infrastructure bank to build publicly-owned infrastructure all across Queensland, creating a state-wide jobs and investment boom, and focusing on upgrading schools and hospitals in high-need areas and supporting regional communities diversifying out of extractive industries or hit hard by climate change. You can find out more at greens.org.au/qld/infrastructure.

Regarding your priority issues:

1. Long Term Infrastructure Planning

The Queensland Greens fully support this approach.

As you can see from our proposal for a Queensland Public Infrastructure Bank, the Queensland Greens are serious about thinking beyond the electoral cycle, to give people some consistency and build industry confidence.

QUEENSLAND GREENS

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Too often, major infrastructure planning decisions are made ad hoc by politicians and political campaigners amid an election campaign, pork-barreling marginal electorates, gold-plating some infrastructure and letting others fall to bits.

2. A Chief Engineer for Queensland

The Queensland Greens fully support the appointment of a Chief Engineer for Queensland.

We have long called for bold, independent advisory bodies within the public service, with enough independence to come out against the Government and their Ministers if the need arises - whether that's a Chief Ecologist, Chief Scientist or Chief Engineer. These individuals are powerful symbols to show how important these sectors are to Queensland's economy, and can inspire young people, marginalised communities and industry innovators by putting a face and a history to a whole sector.

You can find out more here about the Queensland Greens' policies on Science & Innovation (greens.org.au/policies/qld/science-innovation) and the Manufacturing Industry (greens.org.au/policies/qld/manufacturing-industry).

3. Energy

The Queensland Greens support your energy plan in principle.

Queensland needs to move to a zero-carbon future - and quickly. This obviously needs to be a just transition, supporting local communities, workers and the industry move out of fossil fuels and into a sustainable energy economy. Engineers are going to be pivotal in facilitating that transition and their expert advice must be heeded by the Government and by businesses in planning for it.

You can find out more here about the Queensland Greens' policies on Climate Change (greens.org.au/policies/qld/climate-change) and Energy (greens.org.au/policies/qld/energy).

4. STEM Education

The Queensland Greens support moves to encourage teachers to upskill and for schools to hire specialist STEM teachers, to encourage and mentor women and other marginalised groups to move into engineering, and to facilitate closer ties between schools, TAFEs and Universities to improve transitions for students.

We are, however, cautious about over-emphasising the importance of STEM education at secondary school at the expense of a well-rounded education. Schools should encourage students to engage in STEM in one form or another while at school, and programs should be set up to engage and reward high-achieving students in the field.

It is also important for students to engage with critical studies, the humanities, the arts, physical and manual education and language studies. Over-emphasis on STEM at secondary school can have an adverse effect on students entering University education.

It is important to also remember geographic disadvantage of students in remote, rural and regional communities. Often programs that support high-achieving students or promote STEM University studies to students are inaccessible for students outside of major centres.

You can read more here about the Queensland Greens' policy on Education (greens.org.au/policies/qld/education).

5. Water Security

The Queensland Greens support your plan for improving water security in Queensland, but we want to go further.

Water is Queensland's most precious resource. Water irrigates our crops and makes us Australia's food bowl. Water flows through our cities and towns, providing vital transport corridors. Water is our biggest tourism drawcard, with our pristine beaches and the Great Barrier Reef bringing in billions of dollars to the Queensland economy every year.

We need to take drastic action to improve water quality and protect our water resources for future generations.

You can read more here about the Queensland Greens' policy on Water (greens.org.au/policies/qld/water).

6. Registration for All Engineers

The Queensland Greens support your proposal for a comprehensive industry-wide registration system for engineers and associated professions, contingent on the financial viability of such a scheme and assurances that it would not adversely impact on workers. We look forward to working with Engineers Australia on developing this proposal further.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity. If you or your members have any further questions, concerns or just want to have a yarn, you can contact our key campaigns at their email addresses below.

Yours in Solidarity

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