

Local Government
Association of Queensland

Advocacy Action Plan 2022

Our priorities for stronger
local government and more
liveable local communities



Every Queensland
community deserves
to be a liveable one

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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LGAQ Events 2022

Key Events	Location	Dates
ROC Assembly	Townsville	17-18 March
Indigenous Leaders Forum	Cairns	27-28 April
ALGA NGA Breakfast	Canberra	20 June
LGx	Sunshine Coast	27-28 June
Civic Leaders Summit	Sunshine Coast	29-30 June
Waste Forum	Brisbane	4-6 July
Bush Councils Convention	Barcaldine	26-28 July
Coastal Leaders Forum	Gladstone	11-12 August
Annual Conference	Cairns	17-19 October
Indigenous Leaders Forum	Cairns	17 October

Keep up to date with all LGAQ events at lgaq.asn.au/membership/events

A message from **LGAQ President, Mayor Mark Jamieson**

Throughout 2022, the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is geared once again to provide a strong and united voice on the issues that matter most to Queensland's 77 councils and, of course, the many local communities they represent.

Our dedicated staff of policy and advocacy specialists will continue to work hard to ensure councils are well equipped and better able to do their jobs.

A key part of this role is the **LGAQ's 2022 Advocacy Action Plan** - a roadmap designed to highlight the top policy positions and funding priorities our councils believe are vital to ensuring Queensland's communities continue to thrive.

The **2022 Advocacy Action Plan** has been developed from a wide variety of policy motions endorsed at the 2021 LGAQ Annual Conference and will inform the development of the LGAQ's priorities ahead of the 2022 Federal Election, and in our negotiations with the State Government.

In what is Australia's most diverse and regionalised state, Queensland local government employs nearly 40,000 people and manages public assets worth a combined \$112 billion.

While Queenslanders rely on their local councils for more than 280 unique community services, local government today is about much more than roads, rates, libraries, and rubbish collection.

Your council is also part of an attentive and vital sector of government that is closely connected to the community and, as such, is among the very first to respond to the needs of residents, especially in times of emergency and natural disaster.

In this pandemic age of continuing uncertainty, this good shepherd role has become even more crucial to maintaining the safety, health, and liveability of our diverse communities - from the tip of Cape York to our iconic rural and remote communities and fast-growing urban centres.

As the peak body for local government in Queensland, the LGAQ is not just another stakeholder when it comes to advocacy. We are an influential, powerful and proven voice on behalf of our members, especially when dealing with State and Federal governments, which together provide more than \$2.5 billion in funding to our councils every year.

That's why the **2022 Advocacy Action Plan** is important reading for those who want to understand the latest issues and policy positions of Queensland councils, as they together strive to improve the lives of the people they serve.



Mayor Mark Jamieson

President, Local Government Association of Queensland
Mayor, Sunshine Coast Council



ABOUT THE **ADVOCACY ACTION PLAN**

The LGAQ is committed to member-led advocacy. Each of the Advocacy Action Plan (AAP) points stems from an Annual Conference resolution proposed by, voted on, and endorsed by Queensland's 77 councils, or endorsed as an advocacy priority by the LGAQ's Policy Executive members.

The AAP includes 144 different requests to be made to the State and/or Federal governments on behalf of our sector. These demonstrate both the extent of our sector's advocacy challenge, and the critical role local government plays in every aspect of community life.

Throughout the year, the LGAQ's Advocacy team will work with members to progress AAP requests with the relevant level of government. We will do this through meetings, submissions, correspondence, working groups, forums, and potentially, public campaigns.

You too can use the AAP to build awareness and understanding of the wide-ranging scope of your advocacy efforts, and to help support your own council's, or region's, independent advocacy on issues of importance to your community.

As the local government sector's peak organisation, we are committed to working with our members to build stronger, more resilient local communities through focussed and determined advocacy.

Our advocacy campaigns are always stronger when our members speak with one voice, collaborating to achieve a positive outcome. If, after reading the AAP you identify an advocacy area your council might benefit from, or should you wish to discuss any of the AAP points contained within this document, please contact **Mr Cory Heathwood, Head of Advocacy, at cory_heathwood@lgaq.asn.au**.



CONQUERING THE HOUSING CRISIS

**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** TO:

- 01** Convene a National Housing Summit and prepare a National Housing Strategy, in partnership with all levels of government to ensure a strategic, comprehensive, integrated, coordinated and collaborative approach to identifying and addressing a range of housing issues.

- 02** Invest \$200 million over four years to assist councils to develop and implement innovative housing partnerships.

- 03** Commit to Closing the Gap and reduce overcrowding in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by allocating \$100 million per year for five years to increase housing supply.

THE **STATE GOVERNMENT** TO:

- 04** Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to identify appropriate policy and legislative responses to address the problems creating abandoned, unused, and vacant properties, and boost available housing stock.





BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

05 Modify the First Home Owners' Grant to be available for the purchase of any new dwelling, any existing dwelling and for the renovation and refurbishment of existing housing stock.

“Every Queenslanders deserves to have access to safe and affordable housing, and local councils are ready to work with the State and Federal governments to address the shortages in our rural and remote regions.”

Mayor Jane McNamara
Flinders Shire Council
Policy Executive member
District 11 – North West

06 Increase social housing supply in areas of need by quadrupling the capital investment in social housing in Queensland, allocating a further \$4.8 billion over four years.

07 Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to develop a range of innovative and fit for purpose strategies to effectively address housing supply issues across metropolitan, regional, rural and remote communities, to support growth and investment, improve liveability, and grow stronger and more diverse local communities.

SUSTAINING LOCAL JOBS

**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

- 08** Restore Financial Assistance Grants to one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue to support and create jobs, and improve community liveability.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 09** Support more than 4,000 local government jobs and deliver important community infrastructure by maintaining Works for Queensland funding at \$100 million per annum, indexed to the Council Cost Index.



- 10** Make the Unite and Recover Community Economic Stimulus Program for South East Queensland permanent with funding of \$50 million per annum, indexed to the Council Cost Index, to create more than 2,000 jobs in areas of socio-economic disadvantage and high unemployment in South East Queensland.

- 11** Maximise the benefits of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics for all Queenslanders, especially ensuring that rural and remote communities are not overlooked.
- 12** Create a specific small business and innovation grant funding pool for small businesses and/or start-ups in regional, rural, and remote Queensland.
- 13** Conduct a comprehensive review of the poultry farming sector regulatory framework, including the State Government's Development of Meat Chicken Farms in Queensland (July 2016) guidelines, to provide more certainty to local governments and the community, and reflect advances in the sector.



BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 14** Implement programs to assist councils in ensuring apprentices and trainees constitute five per cent of their workforce.

“Nearly 40,000 people work for councils across Queensland, supporting their local communities. It is vitally important that all levels of government continue to provide adequate funding to support the projects that enable these council workers to do their jobs.”

Mayor Jack Dempsey
Bundaberg Regional Council
Policy Executive member
District 3 - Wide Bay Burnett

STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONS

**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** TO:



- 15** Legislate to require telecommunications providers to allow competitors access to their infrastructure in regional areas to enable greater mobile roaming.
- 16** Fully implement recommendations of the Rural Telecommunications Independent Review Committee Report benefitting rural and First Nations councils.
- 17** Enact sole invitee status under the *Commonwealth National Land Transport Act 2014*.
- 18** Provide \$200 million per year for five years to fix 'first and last mile' issues impacting supply chains.
- 19** Provide \$800 million per year nationally for four years for the Roads to Recovery Program to support effective management of the local government road network.
- 20** Fund a permanent Bridges Renewal Program so councils can address freight and oversize, overmass access issues.

- 21** Establish a \$3 billion per year road safety fund as recommended by the Inquiry into the National Road Safety Strategy.
- 22** Acknowledge that regional inequality still exists and commit to a consistent policy approach through all agencies to address this inequality in line with the Senate Committee Report into Regional Inequality delivered in December 2020.
- 23** Direct the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and telecommunications providers to commit to a customer service guarantee for mobile (calls and data) network services.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 24** Fast track reliable digital connectivity throughout regional Queensland and ensure non-commercially viable black spots are addressed as a fundamental rights issue.
- 25** Change the State Procurement Policy to enable streamlined access for local councils to State-funded infrastructure/ construction projects where local workforce has the capability and capacity to complete works.



- 26** Provide \$50 million per year for four years to continue the successful Building Our Regions program, which has already created more than 2,760 jobs across 264 projects, generated an additional \$538 million worth of investment in building infrastructure, and further developing a pipeline of projects that support and diversify local economies.
- 27** Increase funding for the Transport and Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) to \$100 million by 2024 to build safer road networks in regional communities, support 452 jobs and enhance flexibility to support rural communities.

- 28** Require resource project proponents to compensate councils for their participation in Social Impact Assessments to ensure employment and business opportunities for resource communities can be progressed without adversely affecting normal council services.

BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 29** Provide dedicated ongoing funding for new and existing water and wastewater infrastructure to support population and economic growth, and address ageing water and sewerage infrastructure.
- 30** Provide \$20 million to establish and support regional university centres across rural and regional Queensland to enhance local academic opportunities with greater choice and access to higher education.



“As the country’s most decentralised state, our regions are our backbone. With more than half of us living outside of the capital, we know that when our regions are strong, Queensland is strong.”

Mayor Matt Burnett
Gladstone Regional Council
Policy Executive member
District 6 - Central Queensland



KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE



**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

**THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT TO:**

- 31** Establish a comprehensive Coastal Hazards Adaptation Framework that builds resilience in communities most likely to be impacted by coastal hazard risks, and effectively considers the insurance and financial implications.
- 32** Provide ongoing dedicated funding for the implementation of coastal hazard adaptation strategies.
- 33** Provide \$200 million for targeted disaster mitigation over four years and establish effective disaster recovery funding arrangements.
- 34** Ensure NBN communication services incorporate uninterruptable power supply to support emergency management.
- 35** Continue the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP) as an ongoing funding source paid directly to local government, similar to the Roads to Recovery Program introduced in 2000.

**THE STATE
GOVERNMENT TO:**

- 36** Provide dedicated funding for council-based community wellbeing and mental health services for regional communities to counter the cumulative impacts of COVID-19.
- 37** Provide \$10 million to allow greater access to expert assistance, guidance, and ongoing support to help local government to undertake local disaster risk assessments as guided by the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF).
- 38** Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to identify necessary policy and legislative amendments and funding required to support council decision-making in relation to natural hazards and climate change, including implementation of coastal hazard adaptation strategies.
- 39** In consultation with local governments and the community, develop a compliance framework for buildings in bushfire-prone areas to ensure compliance is maintained with the identified Bushfire Attack Level for the life of the development.



40 Adopt a policy that moderates costs and strengthens property rights in urban (town) water allocations and ensures equity in water allocations to local government.

41 Establish a transparent and sustainable pricing method for regional bulk water providers.

42 Increase funding for the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) Road Maintenance Performance Contracts (RMPC) to cover the significant number of unfunded defects that exist on the State-controlled network, and amend the RMPC to ensure that the current conditional indemnities do not unfairly favour DTMR in circumstances where the State-controlled road network is in a poor condition.

43 Have the DTMR conduct a review of its decision to impose increased heavy vehicle restrictions on State-controlled roads, and its subsequent enforcement activity, as well as work with councils to address the increased heavy vehicle traffic on the local government road network that has resulted from this decision.

44 Increase rail infrastructure safety by amending the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994* to clarify that the "Rail Infrastructure Manager" retains responsibility for "Danger Zone" areas at all times, as well as update the framework for the management of rail/road interfaces.

45 Accept responsibility for mitigating unreasonably high fuel loads on State-controlled land holdings by being proactive in planning, taking positive alleviation measures, and allocating appropriate resources.

46 Establish a consistent national approach to the management of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) risks on developments, and a coordinated PFAS advisory authority for development stakeholders.

47 Strengthen support to councils from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) to reduce non-compliance with Queensland's building and pool safety legislation, establish improved processes for complaint lodgement, and increase training and support for building certifiers and pool safety inspectors.

- 48** Address youth crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities by:
- Introducing legislation and increasing funding to allow State and community service agencies to provide targeted intensive support to identified families where there is a lack of parental care or threat, enabling young people to feel safe and cared for by their family, and reinforcing the need for parents to provide adequate care for young people.
 - Introducing legislation and increasing funding to allow State and community service agencies to provide targeted, intensive support where there is a lack of parental care or threat, enabling young people to feel safe and cared for by their family, and reinforcing the need for parents to provide adequate care for young people.
 - Continuing to engage with councils, via the LGAQ, on how to address these issues.

- 49** Provide a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) for offences under s194 1(b), (c) and (d) and s195 1(b), (c) and (d) of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

- 50** Conduct a targeted review and amend the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* to:
- Provide statewide uniform bans on restricted dog breeds.
 - Empower courts to prohibit persons guilty of animal management offences from keeping animals.
 - Provide additional enforcement powers in relation to unregistered dogs to ensure compliance, including seizure and forfeiture of dogs.
 - Enable councils to apply a range of compliance measures, including issuing an infringement if a dog is not declared a regulated dog.
 - Allow councils to respond effectively to serious dog attacks and regulated dog offences under the Act, as well as use additional pathways including the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).
 - Integrate a microchipping database within the dog registration database to track the movement of owners with dangerous dogs across the state.
 - Simplify powers of entry for council officers for a range of animal management compliance matters, including inspection of dog enclosures.



51 Continue funding for shark monitoring and detection programs in consultation with local government.

52 Increase resourcing of monitoring, detection, and deterrent projects for the proactive management of crocodiles.

“From our collective responses to COVID-19, to maintaining safe roads and protecting coastlines, to emergency preparedness and right through to dangerous dogs, our communities know they can rely on their councils to help keep them safe.”

Mayor Peter Flannery
Moreton Bay Regional Council
Policy Executive member
District 2 – SEQ (Northern)

BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

53 Accept responsibility, and agree to reimburse local governments, for the additional costs incurred during the ongoing operational response to COVID-19 in containing and controlling the virus within their respective areas.

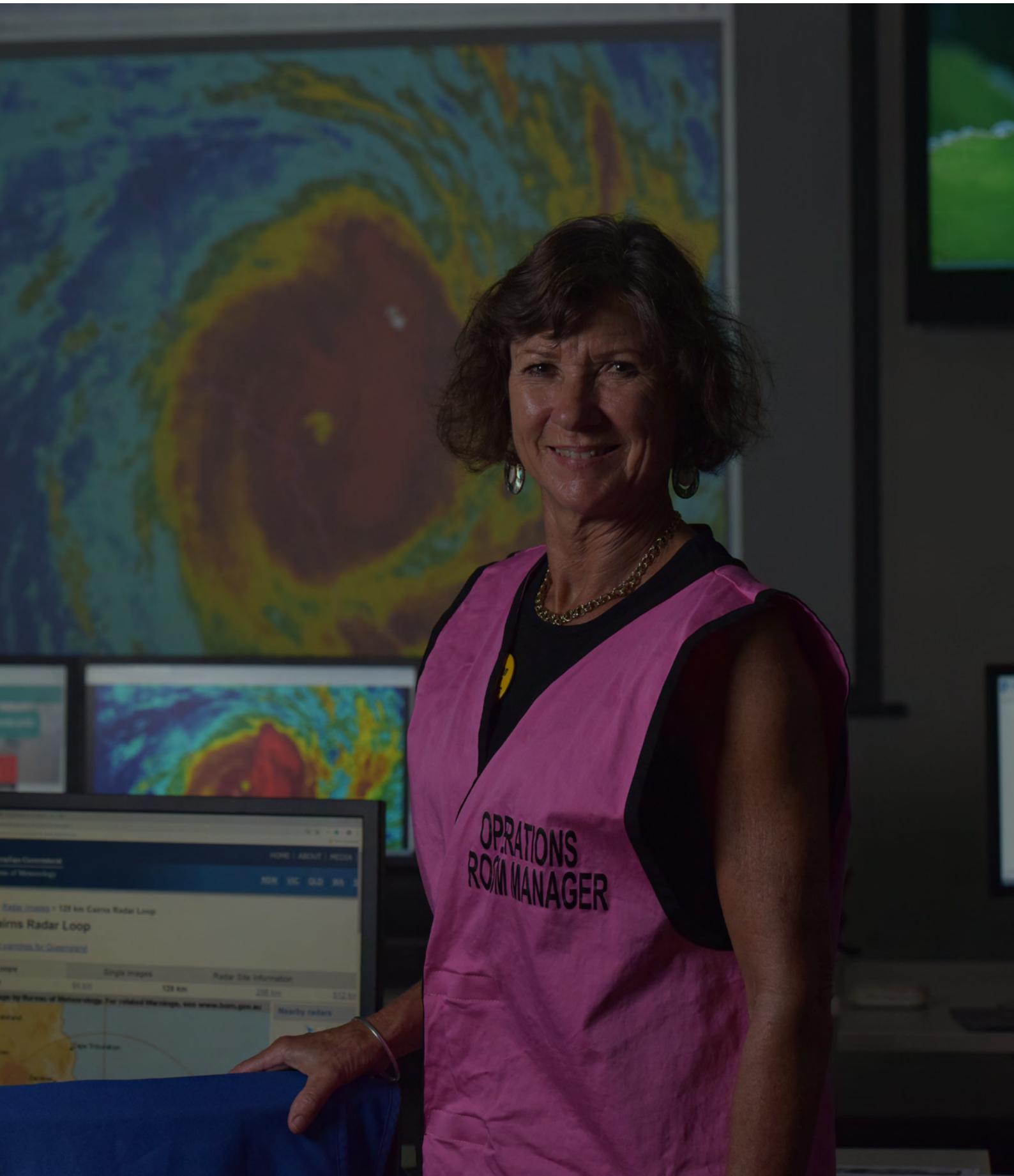
54 Adopt a transparent funding methodology for local government disaster mitigation projects to improve resilience in the context of natural disaster events.

55 Modernise current disaster management legislation and regulations to reinforce the importance and authority of locally led disaster responses and to improve transitional arrangements across council terms.

56 Review funding and loan packages for business and industry to ensure funds are delivered earlier, and packages are tailored specifically, to bushfire and other disasters as necessary.

57 Provide additional resourcing to State agencies to maintain support services locally for longer periods, as required, and to employ a full range of delivery mechanisms to enable more disaster impacted people to access assistance.

58 Adopt the LGAQ eight point Drought Action Plan to ensure a systematic approach to the prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery from drought.



PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

- 59** Invest \$200 million over four years for climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives to support planning and preparation to minimise the impacts of climate change in local communities and across council operations.
- 60** Impose a levy on all tyres – produced in Australia or imported – with funds directed to councils to assist meeting the cost of recycling or disposing of tyres under the State Government’s waste management levy and waste reduction targets.
- 61** Endorse the recommendations of the Senate inquiry into the Impact of Feral Deer, Pigs, and Goats for long-term funding for national feral pig and deer action plans and economic modelling to better manage invasive species.
- 62** Endorse the recommendations of the Senate inquiry into the Impact of Feral Deer, Pigs, and Goats to recognise local government as a key contributor to invasive plant and animal control by acknowledging this role in strategies and recovery plans, as well as fund local governments to support increased invasive plant and animal control activities.






THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 63** Ensure funding under the Recycling and Jobs Fund is dedicated to the creation of a sustainability fund to enable local government to deliver waste management and resource recovery initiatives.
- 64** Commit 100 per cent of waste levy revenue to the funding of sustainable resource recovery, recycling infrastructure and programs to build a circular economy.
- 65** Commit \$6 million per year for four years to continue the Regional Recycling Transport Assistance Package to ensure cost equalisation for regional councils in transporting recyclables.
- 66** Fast track implementation of mandated and co-regulatory product stewardship programs which support the principles of a circular economy and reduce the cost of managing waste for councils.
- 67** Allocate \$8 million over three years to the Reef Councils' Rescue Plan to significantly improve quality of urban water flow to the Great Barrier Reef by 2027.
- 68** Provide \$1.6 million over three years to accelerate delivery of actions to adapt to climate risks and transition to a low carbon economy through the establishment of a regional climate resilience alliance of local governments.
- 69** Endorse and implement the recommendations of the *Biosecurity Act 2014* review and resource additional biosecurity officers across Queensland to support local government and the community to fulfil their requirements under the Act.
- 70** Source and supply chemicals to local governments to treat fire ants and yellow crazy ants, and increase resources and community awareness campaigns to combat the spread of invasive ant species in Queensland.

- 71** Develop a targeted, long-term capacity building program for Queensland businesses, particularly suppliers to government, to support their transition to low emissions products and services.
- 72** Provide guidance and capacity building for local governments to advance their emissions reduction goals through procurement.
- 73** Develop a program to replace existing street lighting with solar lighting.
- 74** Establish coordinated, integrated, and streamlined processes to facilitate the remediation, rectification, or restoration of riparian environments, and provide exemptions or self-assessable solutions for low risk activities.
- 75** Update biodiversity planning assessments and detailed mapping of Good Quality Agricultural Land (GQAL) to ensure planning decisions about appropriate land use are based on current terrestrial ecological values.
- 76** Develop a control strategy and funded program to assist communities with vermin control.
- 77** Provide recurring funding to councils for the preservation, maintenance and management of environmental precincts and corridors that are recognised as vital to mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity.
- 78** Provide funding to support the implementation and recommendations of current and future Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plans across Queensland.
- 79** Continue funding for shark monitoring and detection programs in consultation with local government to manage ongoing risks.
- 80** Increase resourcing of monitoring, detection and deterrent projects to support the proactive management of crocodiles.

BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 81** Invest \$200 million per year for five years to match local government spending on the Great Barrier Reef, and deliver the Reef 2050 Plan so the Reef can maintain its \$6 billion economic and environmental asset value for the state and national economies.
- 82** Provide a targeted, regular, and consistent funding stream to assist local governments in managing weeds across Queensland.



“We live in a beautiful part of the world that is surrounded by amazing nature and environmental conservation areas. The work that local councils put in, protecting, restoring, and enhancing these spaces, in partnership with not-for-profits, business and State and Federal governments, is crucial for ensuring they flourish and that we continue to attract ecotourism to Queensland.”

Mayor Jenny Hill
Townsville City Council
Policy Executive member
District 9 - Northern

SUPPORTING RURAL AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES

**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT** TO:

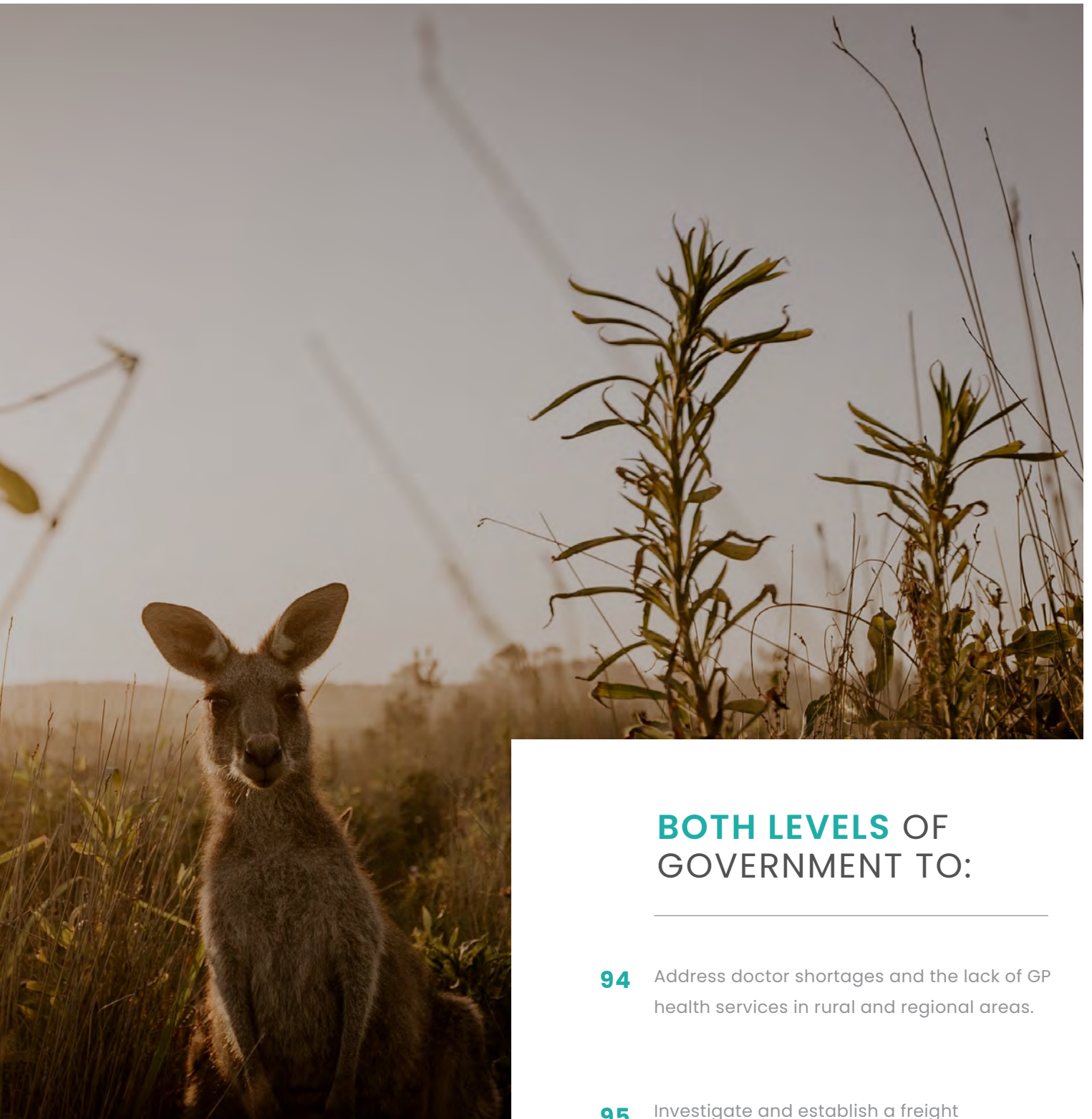
- 83** Establish a system of aged care service provision for ageing Australians in rural and remote areas so residents can remain within their community.
- 84** Support economic and community recovery from drought by continuing to provide funding under the Drought Communities Programme Extension to drought-declared councils, up to and including two years following the lifting of a drought declaration.
- 85** Assess the effectiveness of the 2019 Stronger Rural Health Strategy, specifically the impacts of sub-standard health services, to deliver an equitable model of fit for purpose health care to Australians living in rural and remote areas.
- 86** Review how the Community Child Care Fund can better support childcare services operated by local governments in rural and remote Australia.



THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 87** Ensure no changes are made to the future management of the Lake Eyre Basin without a Regulatory Impact Statement and consultation with local government.
- 88** Review the Darling Downs–Moreton Rabbit Board Land Protection Fund payment area and the methodology used for the wild dog barrier fence.
- 89** Provide \$5 million per year over four years to fund cluster fencing and extend the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative for weed and feral animal control, supporting more than 200 jobs.
- 90** Reinstate the Western Roads Upgrade Program with \$25 million per year for four years to sustain 119 local government jobs in rural and remote communities.
- 91** Provide direction to school principals encouraging community access to Education Department facilities in small communities.
- 92** Change the *Stock Route Management Act 2002* and regulations to support greater cost recovery for councils by:
- Allowing councils to keep 100 per cent of the revenue from permit fees.
 - Providing councils with discretion to waive permit fees in times of drought for adjacent landholders.
 - Working with local governments to strategically resolve the issue where landholders have historically fenced in the stock route network and/or are accessing the land free of charge without a Permit to Occupy.
 - Funding the ongoing maintenance of the stock route network at no expense to local government.
- 93** Work with the LGAQ and Queensland councils to develop a strategic management framework for carbon farming in Queensland, to ensure industry benefits are maximised and that any adverse impacts are minimised or appropriately managed.



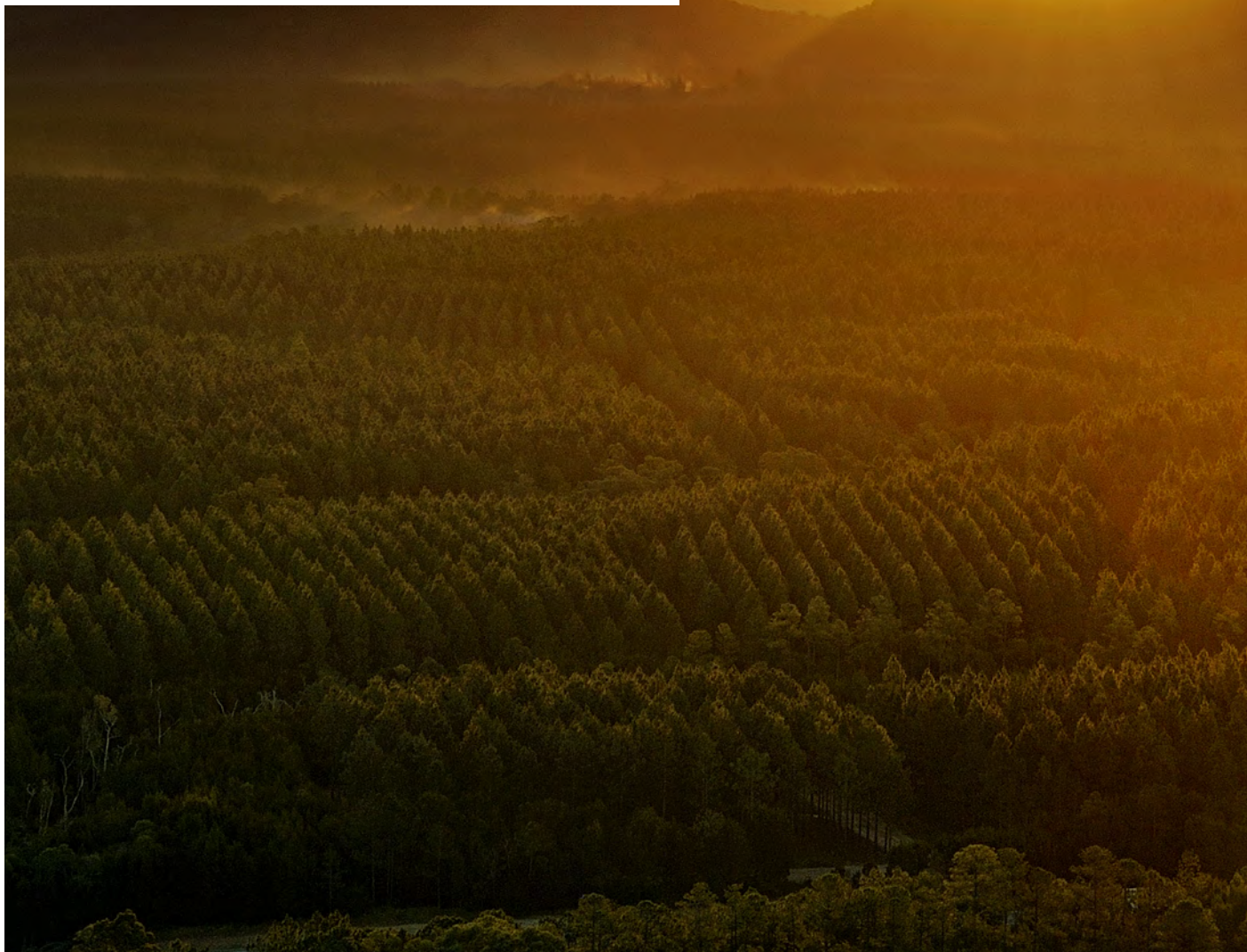


BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 94** Address doctor shortages and the lack of GP health services in rural and regional areas.
- 95** Investigate and establish a freight equalisation scheme for Queensland's remote communities to address unsustainable costs.
- 96** Provide whole-of-life funding for essential community infrastructure to remote and rural councils with nil or extremely low-rate bases.

“While rural and remote communities can be challenged by their vast distance from bigger cities, it’s that distance that creates the very conditions for the kinds of innovation and invention rural and remote communities are famous for. When our communities prosper, Queensland prospers.”

Cr Robyn Fuhrmeister
Balonne Shire Council
Policy Executive member
District 5 – South West



ADVANCING FIRST NATIONS COUNCILS



**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

- 97** Work with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) to establish a mechanism for regularly informing and educating Prescribed Bodies Corporate (PBC) across Australia on any legislation, regulatory changes, governance and performance arrangements.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 98** Establish a mechanism to ensure Deed of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) trustees are regularly informed and educated on any legislation, regulatory changes, governance and performance arrangements.
- 99** Increase State Government Financial Aid (SGFA) by 10 per cent to recognise significant increases in labour costs and assist councils in retaining workers.
- 100** Extend the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program by providing \$30 million per year for four years to deliver regional solutions for waste management and related essential service activities.
- 101** Provide funding to support the implementation and recommendations of the Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Plans across First Nation communities.

BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 102** Collaborate with the LGAQ and member councils in reviewing current land tenure issues which are detrimental to a council's capacity to deliver vital infrastructure for the wellbeing of their community.
- 103** Provide funding to ensure remote and discrete First Nations communities have the digital connectivity necessary to provide the same level of services available to other communities across Australia.

“First Nations councils continue to face unique challenges but are determined to play their part in addressing the key issues facing their communities. However, we’re better together, and Closing the Gap requires the collective will and collaborative efforts of all three levels of government.”

Mayor Jason Woibo
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
Policy Executive member
District 12 – Aboriginal and Island Councils

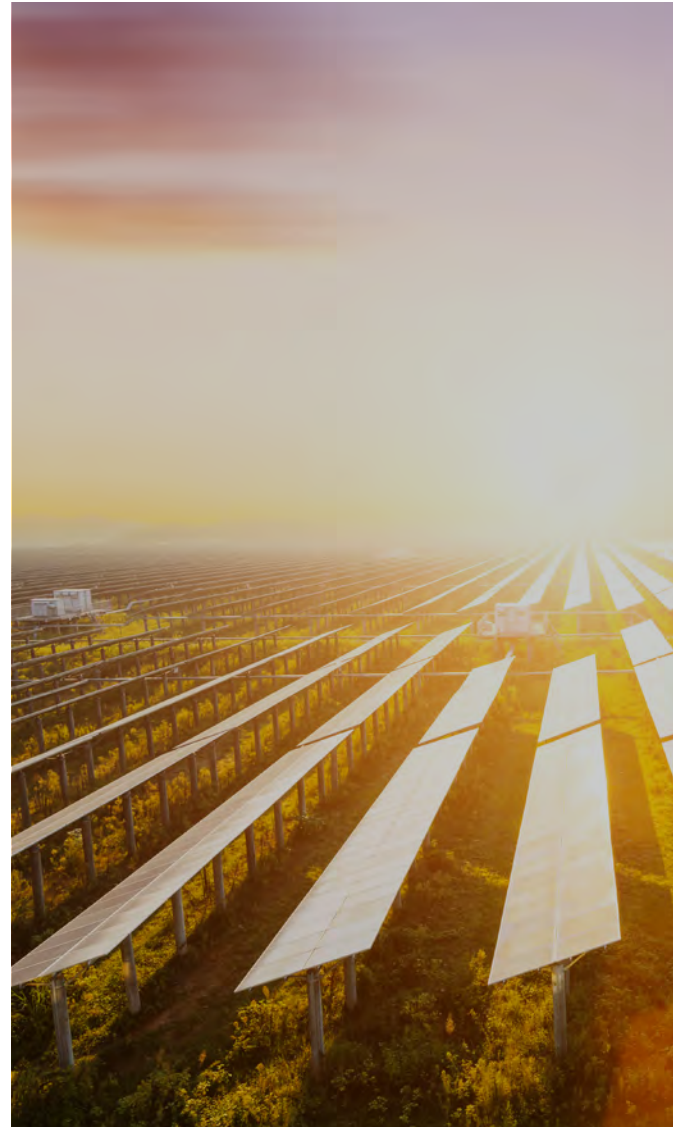


PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

**ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:**

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 104** Provide \$2 million per year for three years for council-led planning innovation and improvement projects to drive leading practice in strategic land use planning and development assessment.
- 105** Initiate a broad community awareness and education campaign to explain performance-based planning, the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders under the *Planning Act 2016*, and opportunities for community involvement in the planning and development process.
- 106** Prioritise key infrastructure projects in the State Infrastructure Strategy and include regional infrastructure plans as a key component of each regional plan made under the *Planning Act 2016* to better align state, regional and local planning processes as well as infrastructure funding and delivery with the growth and demands anticipated of each region.
- 107** Commit to reducing the funding gap for trunk infrastructure that currently exists under Queensland's capped infrastructure charging regime and establish an equitable trunk infrastructure funding framework that reflects the true cost of development



- 108** Work with local governments to review and streamline the process for making or amending a local government infrastructure plan.
- 109** Review the *State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014* in respect of who can issue an infringement notice for an offence against the *Building Act 1975* to align with who can prosecute the offence.

“Our state continues to grow rapidly, and councils know that good planning is at the heart of successful growth. It is crucial the three levels continue to work together, as we did to win the 2032 Olympics, to plan for the challenges Queensland will face.”

Mayor Karen Williams
Redland City Council
Policy Executive member
District 2 - SEQ (Southern)



BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

- 110** Work in partnership with councils and the QBCC to clarify processes for conducting investigations into building-related complaints, including clearer demarcation of the roles and responsibilities of local government and QBCC in the process.
- 111** Reinstate Heritage Assessment Officers throughout regional Queensland to support improved heritage conservation outcomes.
- 112** Review limitations on minimum lot sizes for subdivisions for “rural land” under Queensland’s planning framework, to enable local governments to plan appropriately for their communities.
- 113** Support strategic sustainable growth requirements by identifying, preserving and maintaining strategic land corridors for purposes including transport system future needs.
- 114** Develop an integrated renewable energy strategy for Queensland, in consultation with local governments, including the identification and delivery of renewable energy projects in Queensland Renewable Energy Zones.
- 115** Provide dedicated funding to support local government upgrades to public buildings to meet current accessibility standards.
- 116** Provide funding for local governments across Queensland to investigate and support the uptake of hydrogen use within their own operations and across local industry.



117 Review the land use planning and regulatory approval processes for renewable energy projects, in consultation with local government, to support the ongoing protection of important agricultural areas and quality agricultural land and ensure the social and economic benefits of renewable energy projects are delivered in local communities.

118 Fund transition planning for regions impacted by the closure of coal fired operations.



AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR

ON BEHALF OF OUR MEMBERS,
THE LGAQ IS ASKING:

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO:

- 119** Restore local government's critical role in national decision-making, including participation in National Cabinet.
- 120** Ensure local government interests are protected in response to recent court rulings on financial compensation and native title.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO:

- 121** Monitor, review and support the implementation of all integrity reforms to ensure they lead to increased transparency and accountability in practice, are proportional to the issues to be addressed, and maintain local government as a high-functioning, responsive and flexible system of government that reflects the diversity of council operations and communities of interest.
- 122** Work in close consultation with the LGAQ to develop and implement specific and targeted amendments to the *Local Government Act 2009* and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* to clarify councillors' conflict of interest obligations.

- 123** Implement electronic (scanned) counting practices for the 2024 local government elections.
- 124** Invest \$100 million to support local governments to develop best practice data and systems protection measures in line with the Federal Government's Cyber Security Strategy 2020.
- 125** Allocate \$1 million to develop a digital training and upskilling program for older workers, and provide \$500,000 per year for three years to roll out training across all local governments.
- 126** Implement grant program arrangements consistent with the 2017 KPMG/AEC review of State Government Grants to provide funding certainty to councils, and support long-term planning, improved asset management and financial sustainability.
- 127** Maintain council autonomy in financial management, including the choice to convene an external audit committee.
- 128** Legislate to address the impasse between local government and body corporates that inhibits positive action to recover both rates and body corporate fees.
- 129** Support modernisation of employment conditions for trainees and apprentices, and variation of current awards, to better harmonise employment conditions of local government employees.



- 130** Amend the *Civil Liabilities Act 2003* to strengthen indemnity provisions and address concerns that the *Goondiwindi v Tait* case has created for councils with Road Maintenance Performance Contracts.
- 131** Join with the National Indigenous Australians Agency to establish relevant data sets for each local government area against each of the Closing the Gap targets, and regularly report these to councils.
- 132** Investigate a community services obligation payment to local government for supply of water, waste, and sewerage services to achieve cost neutrality of these utilities.
- 133** Amend Section 116 of the *Local Government Regulations 2012* and implement timelier and regular rate valuations.

134 Amend the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* to recognise Notices to Reduce Fire Risks as remedial notices, whereby unpaid costs for remedial work for non-compliance undertaken by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services become a rates debt over the property.

135 Establish a new agreement between the LGAQ and the Department of Education that addresses the required design standards, construction methods and handover processes of new school supporting site infrastructure.

136 Immediately improve planning and operations, including the allocation of appropriate resources, to mitigate the threat of bushfire on State Government-controlled land.

137 Amend the *Local Government Act 2009* to authorise council officers to use surveillance devices, including body-worn cameras, surveillance cameras and CCTV, to record images and/or sound while performing official duties or during the investigation of offences.

138 Reaffirm the Partners in Government Agreement 2019 by:

- Ensuring relations between parties are mutually respectful and cooperative with an emphasis on partnership.
- Committing to timely and frequent communication, with recognition of each other's roles and responsibilities.
- Undertaking timely and meaningful engagement on all policy, legislative, strategic and program initiatives where local governments have an interest, and provide, where practicable, a minimum consultation period of four weeks.
- Including the following provision in the renewed Agreement: "Where applications are made to local government requiring input and approvals from State agencies, those agencies be obliged to consult with local government before making a decision."

139 Investigate strategies to fund the annual depreciation of assets for qualifying local governments.

140 Provide \$1.2 million to develop a suite of economic intelligence tools to shape the quality and accessibility of economic data used by local decision makers to assess the impacts of disasters and pandemics.

141 Direct the Office of the Independent Assessor to not deal with, or respond to, anonymous complaints, and not compel local government authorities to deal with or respond to anonymous complaints.



142 Clarify the provisions of the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* regarding group campaign activities.

143 Amend Section (3) of the *Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) Regulation 2019* to allow local governments to pay court costs at the conclusion of civil proceedings rather than upfront.

BOTH LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO:

144 Increase flexibility for project expenditure timeframes for small and remote councils to allow adequate time to deliver COVID-19 economic stimulus projects, and to support the ongoing employment of council workforces and council financial sustainability.

“Integrity, efficiency, and confidence. These are just three words that come to mind when I think of local government. Councils are committed to progress and innovation while supporting all our communities – the more effective our councils are, the more our communities benefit.”

Mayor Paul McVeigh
Western Downs Regional Council
Policy Executive member
District 4 - Darling Downs



THE POLICY EXECUTIVE



Cr Peter Matic
Brisbane City Council
District 1 – Brisbane City Council



Mayor Peter Flannery
Moreton Bay Regional Council
District 2 – SEQ (Northern)



Mayor Karen Williams
Redland City Council
District 2 – SEQ (Southern)



Cr Paul Tully
Ipswich City Council
District 2 – SEQ (Western)



Mayor Jack Dempsey
Bundaberg Regional Council
District 3 – Wide Bay Burnett



Mayor Paul McVeigh
Western Downs Regional Council
District 4 – Darling Downs



Cr Robyn Fuhrmeister
Balonne Shire Council
District 5 – South West



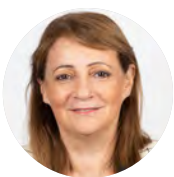
Mayor Matt Burnett
Gladstone Regional Council
District 6 – Central Queensland



Mayor Andrew Willcox
Whitsunday Regional Council
District 7 – Whitsunday



Mayor Robert Dare
Diamantina Shire Council
District 8 – Central West



Mayor Jenny Hill
Townsville City Council
District 9 – Northern



Mayor Peter Scott
Cook Shire Council
District 10 – Far North



Mayor Jane McNamara
Flinders Shire Council
District 11 – North West



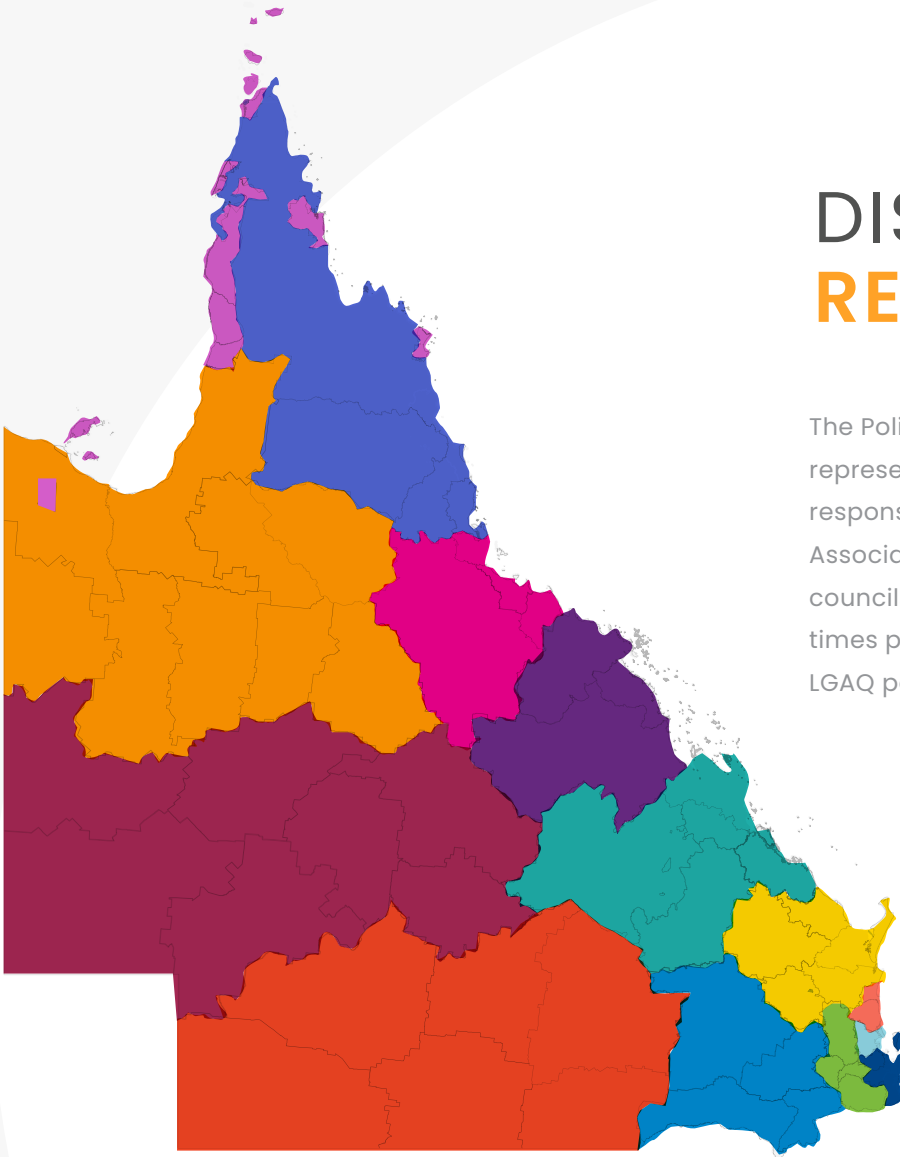
Mayor Jason Woibo
Hope Vale Aboriginal
Shire Council
District 12 – Aboriginal and
Island Councils

















Mayor Wayne Butcher
Lockhart River Aboriginal
Shire Council
District 12 – Aboriginal and
Island Councils

DISTRICT REGIONS

The Policy Executive consists of 15 district representatives and the President, and is responsible for the determination of the Association's policy on behalf of member councils. The Policy Executive meets six times per year to discuss and determine LGAQ policy.



LEGEND KEY:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
|  District 1 |  District 3 |  District 7 |  District 11 |
|  District 2 North |  District 4 |  District 8 |  District 12 |
|  District 2 South |  District 5 |  District 9 | |
|  District 2 West |  District 6 |  District 10 | |



**Every Queensland
community** deserves
to be a liveable one

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