



Steven Miles

DEPUTY PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND

WORKING TOGETHER FOR QUEENSLAND

29 October 2020

Ms Anna Campbell
Executive Officer
Queensland Walking Alliance
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Dear Ms Campbell

Thank you for your email of 23 October 2020 regarding our policy commitments in the 2020 Queensland election, and your policy proposals. The Palaszczuk Labor Government's strong health response to the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we can now start to deliver our plan for economic recovery. This plan will support jobs, help small business, invest in Queensland's manufacturing industry, and bring forward new infrastructure for local communities.

I am pleased to provide the following responses in relation to Queensland Walking Alliance's State Election Priorities.

Queensland Walking Strategy Action Plan (including speed limits)

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's Action Plan for Walking (2019–2021) is focussed on improving walking environments and promoting more walking for transport, health and recreation. Queenslanders have told us they want to walk more, and the Palaszczuk Labor Government has delivered.

On 21 July 2019, our government released a **model code for neighbourhood design** and a proposal to introduce new provisions requiring that new residential development is designed to create more walkable neighbourhoods.

Under the Action Plan for walking, new **inclusive mapping platforms** are providing better information about the footpath network and access to public transport for people using wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

To help promote walking as a convenient, no cost, sustainable and healthy transport option, we have also included it in **planning for new Mobility as a Service (MaaS) digital options into the future.**

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has worked with Austroads to ensure transport and planning professionals have the information they need to plan safe and convenient places for walking. The development of a **Queensland Heatwave Risk Assessment** is supporting the need to prioritise shade to protect people walking from the effects of heatwaves and climate change.

Our government is providing **information and training to support local governments implement lower speed limits in and around schools, public transport stations and other activity centres to make them safer and more attractive for walking.**

We are delivering new **projects that make it safer and easier for pedestrians, particularly people with disability, to cross roads, and we will continue to do so.**

We have recently committed that a re-elected Palaszczuk Government will invest \$10 million to help boulevard a network of South Brisbane streets, making them more walk and bike-friendly, in addition to \$1 million to progress a plan for Montague Road which will include safety upgrades for pedestrians.

We will also commit \$22.5 million to fill in gaps on the popular Riverwalk at Kangaroo Point. This project is an excellent example of a project that will be enjoyed not only by residents walking around their neighbourhood, but also tourists wandering around this beautiful part of our city.

We also delivering safer infrastructure for pedestrians in our regions, including a commitment to invest \$46.4 million to upgrade the busy Stuart Drive/Mervyn Crossman Drive intersection in Townsville. Importantly this will provide safer crossings for pedestrians and bike riders while also improving safety for motorists and helping to bust congestion.

We will continue to work with stakeholders and local government to deliver better walking infrastructure, including through our Active Transport Advisory Committee we established this year to look at better integrating State and local networks.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is also working on additional initiatives, including:

- state-wide roll out of smart crossings which use innovative technology to provide people with more time to finish crossing the road;
- piloting new planning guidelines to improve walking environments around activity centres such as public transport stations, schools, shops and other local facilities and attractions.
- introducing lower speed limits in at least 20 areas around the state that have high numbers of people walking;
- creating safer environments for walking to school as part of the \$20 million School Transport Infrastructure Program;
- promoting best practice case studies and guidelines to increase the amount of shade that is provided for places where people walk;
- promoting new ways for local governments to reallocate road space to revitalise local centres and improve the quality of walking environments to facilitate social distancing;
- developing a new tool to help communities, developers and local governments audit neighbourhood streets to identify the barriers and opportunities for improving walking;
- developing guidance on options to change traffic signal timing to minimise crossing delays and better coordinate signals for people walking in busy pedestrian areas – a so called ‘green wave’;
- developing new guidelines for directional signage to make walking an obvious and easy choice;
- developing training for design, transport and planning professionals to create better walking environments; and
- supporting Heart Foundation Walking and 10,000 Steps to encourage walking through individual and workplace participation, community engagement and by creating supportive environments.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palaszczuk Labor Government undertook extensive consultation with the community, industry and local government about how effective neighbourhood design could support community health and wellbeing.

We received more than 20,000 responses from communities, local government and industry across Queensland, supporting the policy principles and providing feedback, ideas and suggestions and are using this valuable feedback to inform the refinement of the proposed provisions of the model code.

We have now updated the model code and revised provisions to ensure new residential subdivisions deliver more walkable neighbourhoods.

Building resilient, healthy and active communities post COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way Queenslanders live, work and connect.

As we recover from COVID-19, implementing these changes will mean that we design and build better communities and ensure local neighbourhoods have the fundamentals — such as footpaths, street trees, nearby parks and open space.

Our government has developed a range of complementary guidance documents to assist local councils to implement the mandatory provisions and make existing environments more walkable. We know that many established neighbourhoods are not conducive to walking and retrofitting will require an additional investment from councils.

To help councils we have developed the **Walkability Improvement Tool** which gives councils a step-by-step guide to effectively and efficiently identify and prioritise walkability improvements based on the greatest return on investment.

The release of the **Street Design Manual for Walkable Neighbourhoods by the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia Queensland (IPWEAQ)** and complementary industry-led guidance materials will also support implementation of the mandatory provisions.

The **mandatory provisions commenced on 28 September 2020** to allow developers and local government to undertake training on the provisions.

Queensland Footpaths

Many footpaths, walkways, esplanades etc in Queensland are funded through the Palaszczuk Labor Government's signature **Works for Queensland (W4Q) program**.

Every Queensland council can point to a W4Q project that has made a difference to that community – be it through the provision of new infrastructure or the jobs it has created.

Despite the demonstrated success of W4Q, the LNP has never backed the program and refuse to commit to it if elected. With 27,500 jobs created and supported by W4Q and the Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package to date, this is a program that cannot be put at risk by an LNP cut.

A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government will commit \$400 million over the next six years for future rounds of W4Q to benefit 65 regional councils across Queensland. This commitment is estimated to create or support up to 11,800 jobs in regional Queensland. Councils right across Queensland will benefit from local projects that will create and maintain local jobs.

Local projects can be planned for with certainty by councils into the future.

South East Queensland (SEQ) councils will also benefit from a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor Government with a commitment of \$200 million over six years for a SEQ Community Stimulus Package.

This is estimated to create or support up to 6,000 jobs in SEQ with a focus on outer urban areas or low socio-economic areas.

The twelve SEQ councils will be able to utilise these funds for projects that make a difference in their communities, particularly in outer-urban areas with high unemployment.

This builds on the Palaszczuk Labor Government's recent delivery of \$100 million of stimulus for SEQ Councils including \$50 million of COVID W4Q funding and the \$50 million Unite and Recover Community Stimulus Package.

In relation to the LNP's record when they were in government, councils received 66% less funding for local infrastructure than what they have under the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

In this election campaign the LNP has made billions of dollars of unfunded promises about highways and motorways but has been almost silent on active transport solutions for local communities.

Now is not the time to risk the LNP's cuts. Queensland's ongoing economic and health recovery requires leadership and stability, and Deb Frecklington and the LNP are a risk to our recovery.

I urge you to communicate this message with your members. Should the Palaszczuk Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Yours sincerely



STEVEN MILES MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services