CCHQ 2025

LET'S GET AUSTRALIA BACK ON TRACK

LIBERAL

THE NATIONALS for Regional Australia

26 April 2025

RACQ Group
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Dear

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Coalition's views on the important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

Under Labor, Australia's economy is weak, inflation and interest rates have stayed too high for too long, housing is unaffordable, and our country is less safe.

Under Labor, Australians are paying on average 13% more for food, 18% more for rent, and over 30% more for power and gas and young Australians have seen their dream of home ownership slip away.

The Coalition will get Australia back on track by delivering:

1. **Strong economy with low inflation.** We will rein in wasteful spending and reduce tax, red-tape and union control over small businesses.
2. **Cheaper energy.** We will ensure a balanced mix, including more renewables, more gas, and (in seven locations) replace retired coal plants with zero-emissions nuclear energy.
3. **Affordable homes.** We will fund critical infrastructure required for housing, assist first home buyers, restrict foreign investors, and rebalance Labor's record migration intake.
4. **Safer communities.** We will get tough on violent crime by non-citizens, boost our defence and border security, and improve online safety for children.
5. **Quality healthcare.** We will fund more GPs to address current shortages and increase bulk billing and the number of Medicare-subsidised mental health sessions.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members. Further information about the Coalition's election policies can be found at www.liberal.org.au/our-plan.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

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The Coalition's Response to the RACQ 2025 Federal Election Questionnaire

1. **Boost Queensland's national highway maintenance and resilience funding to $500 million over four years.**

The Coalition has committed to deliver more than $17 billion in infrastructure across the nation. This funding for roads, rail, and transport will create new jobs, generate productivity, and attract new investment.

Our commitment includes $600 million to establish the Ag and Mining Roads program to support our mining, resources and farming sectors by investing in infrastructure to upgrade agricultural and mining roads critical to getting product to domestic and export markets. And we will accelerate the delivery of the $400 million Beef Corridors program, to upgrade 450km of key freight routes in Central Queensland.

We will also reinstate the 80:20 federal funding model for nationally significant road projects in regional and remote areas ensuring more regional roads and highways are upgraded.

2. **Significantly increase investment in a range of measures to reduce the impact of severe weather events on high-risk communities and improve insurance affordability:**
    a. **Deliver significant risk reducing mitigation infrastructure such as levees or dams in flood prone communities to lower risk, leading to improved insurance affordability.**
    b. **Expand the Household Resilience Program (cyclone) and the Resilient Homes Fund (flood) in Queensland for the next 10 years, providing an annual budget of $500 million per year for homes at extreme and severe risk of flood and cyclone.**
    c. **Invest in a voluntary home buyback program for households seeking to retreat from future flooding.**
    d. **Stop putting communities in harm's way by introducing national policies and standards that prevents development occurring in flood prone areas.**
    e. **Introduce stronger building codes and standards to ensure resilience infrastructure is used when building or renovating homes in high-risk areas.**
    f. **Work with state governments to abolish the double tax on insurance products to improve the affordability of insurance or spend it where you collect it, on mitigation and resilience building.**
    g. **Make improvements to the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool to ensure that properties in cyclone prone areas are protected and can afford insurance.**

If these measures are not implemented, then the Federal Government will become the insurer of last resort needing to invest in a model like a flood reinsurance pool, which will require heavy subsidies by the government and/or other taxpayer methods.

An elected Dutton Coalition Government will be committed to a national emergency response system that delivers support and relief where and when it is needed.

The Coalition will pursue initiatives to reduce risk and increase preparedness and resilience for future natural disasters and emergencies by working across jurisdictions to deliver effective programs to mitigate risks and deliver safe and supported communities.

To ensure a robust and responsible emergency management system, a Dutton Coalition Government will remain committed to working with state and territory governments to ensure our communities can be prepared for emergencies and can respond and recover as quickly as possible.

We are committed to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, first introduced by the Coalition Government in 2018, to ensure funding for repair and recovery is released as quickly as possible.

We will refocus the Disaster Ready Fund to return it to its original purpose as a source of funding for projects that will future proof communities through investment in major capital works for disaster mitigation and risk reduction.

A Dutton Coalition Government will invest $1 billion into the revitalised Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program which will strengthen communities, enhance resilience, and improve local roads. It will be delivered through two dedicated funding streams, each worth $500 million:

- Resilience and Community Infrastructure Stream – open to all councils, this stream will help strengthen communities against natural disasters and fund essential infrastructure to support local growth.
- Roads Stream – targeted to regional councils to fix potholes, maintain and improve local roads.

A Coalition Government will encourage states and territories to review their tax settings with a view to improving productivity, efficiency and competition, and lowering prices for consumers.

The Coalition will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Cyclone Reinsurance Pool. The ACCC has reported that the Reinsurance Pool, which was established by the former Coalition Government, has begun delivering lower premiums for some consumers in some regions facing higher risk of cyclones. The ACCC's regular price monitoring reports, also started by the former Coalition Government, provide important insights on insurance affordability across Australia and the impact the Reinsurance Pool is having and whether further improvements are needed.

3. **Expand the Battery Booster scheme and expedite Vehicle to Grid and Vehicle to Home capabilities.**
    a. **Provide a home battery rebate of $6,500 for systems that can be used to support the electricity grid, avoid brownouts, and isolate from the grid during blackouts to provide backup electricity.**
    b. **Increase the home battery system rebate to $8,000 in areas with high risk of weather-related power outages.**
    c. **Expedite Vehicle to Grid (V2G) and Vehicle to Home (V2H) technology.**

The Coalition supports more households adopting solar and batteries and home charging and V2G/V2H technology. Under the Coalition, rooftop solar uptake grew to the highest per-capita deployment of solar in the world. Today 1 in 3 Australian households have solar on their roofs.

We will continue to support households through loans available through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation – but we won't take Labor's approach of taking $3.5 billion from all taxpayers to pay for some households' battery systems.

4. **Greater investment in the EV transition and embracing of biofuels**
    a. **Continue the EV fringe benefit tax exemption**
    b. **Invest more in EV charging infrastructure, particularly in regional Australia**
    c. **Support electrification manufacturing and economic development opportunities**
    d. **Bring zero and low emission vehicles (ZLEVs) into the road user charging system**
    e. **Invest more in biofuels industry development**
    f. **Invest in a research and development innovation project for hard-to-electrify LCVs and 4WDs to address distance and regional challenges by using biofuel range extender technology such as ethanol**
    g. **Support and invest in skills training and programs**
    h. **Invest in community education to raise awareness of the opportunities for lower-cost low emission mobility.**

A Coalition Government will work with industry, not against them, to bring to market the cleanest, most fuel-efficient models of the cars Australians need and want to drive—without punishing consumers with unfair costs.

The Coalition will retain the *New Vehicle Efficiency Standard Act 2024* but abolish the financial penalties in Labor's legislation which have been estimated by industry to cost $2.7 billion by 2029 - a cost that will be passed on directly to consumers.

We will retain a vehicle efficiency standard to keep pressure on auto manufacturers to develop and supply more fuel efficient and less polluting vehicles.

We want cleaner, cheaper cars on Australian roads as we head towards net zero by 2050, but forcing unfair penalties on car makers and consumers is not the answer.

The Coalition strongly supports Australians' right to buy the vehicle that best suits their individual or family circumstances – including hybrids or electric vehicles. Government should not be putting its finger ever-more-heavily on the scales, however, to subsidise the purchase of electric vehicles and penalise the purchase of petrol or diesel vehicles – especially since different vehicles remain better suited to performing some roles than others.

The Coalition will unwind Labor's taxpayer-funded and badly designed electric car subsidies.

The Coalition also recognises that a broad suite of emerging products can support a low carbon environment - including low carbon liquid fuels.

5. **The Federal Government should commit to transport tax reform to replace the fuel excise, to ensure fair, sustainable and ongoing funding for critical transport spending.**
    a. **Develop a new road user charge for plug-in electric vehicles to bring them into a new transport tax system.**
    b. **Incorporate hybrids and ultimately all vehicles regardless of fuel/energy source into the new road user charge.**

The Coalition is dedicated to driving and delivering change on our roads. Public funding should be invested to achieve the best outcomes for community safety and the efficient movement of people and freight.

A Dutton Coalition Government will reinstate the 80:20 federal funding model for nationally significant road projects in regional and remote areas ensuring more regional roads and highways are upgraded.