



Cameron Dick

Doing What Matters for Queensland



Dear Mr Carter

Thank you for your letter providing the Miles Labor Government with RACQ's 2024 Queensland Election Priorities.

Our Labor Government led by new Premier Steven Miles has delivered historic cost of living relief for all Queenslanders. By making multinational mining companies pay their fair share we have delivered \$1,300 off every Queenslanders' power bill, 50 cent public transport fares, cutting rego by 20%, free Kindy, free TAFE, we banned rent bidding, cut stamp duty for first home buyers and delivered \$200 FairPlay vouchers for all Queensland families to help with the cost of kids' sport.

We also have an ambitious plan for Queensland's future – more health workers and more hospitals, more schools, roads, public transport, projects to keep Queenslanders in jobs and a universal free school lunch program at State primary schools. We're building more homes for Queenslanders, delivering our nation-leading Energy and Jobs Plan to power our homes and economy with cheap firm renewable energy and we're acting on community safety with more police and crime prevention.

The Miles Labor Government values the significant role the RACQ plays in advocating on behalf of your members for investment in new infrastructure and services across Queensland.

Bruce Highway

This year the Miles Labor Government delivered the largest road and transport investment in the state's history. We also announced an increase to our annual Bruce Highway funding commitment – to \$250 million per annum from 2027-28. In total, we have \$6 billion in joint funding committed to the Bruce Highway and we have a long-term plan.

In June, we released the 15-year Vision and Action Plans for the Bruce Highway, and the Safer Bruce 2030 Action Plan. These are endorsed by the Bruce Highway Trust Advisory Council and set out high priority upgrades that will guide our future investment.

A re-elected Miles Labor Government will:

- Fight to reinstate an 80:20 funding split with the Australian Government.
- Work to the long-term goal of raising all sections to an AusRAP rating of three stars.
- Implement the 15-year Bruce Highway Trust Strategy.
- Continue to deliver the Inland Freight Route

A re-elected Miles Labor Government will also work closely with RACQ to deliver this critical program of works for the Bruce Highway and our broader road network.

Cheaper Fuel

The Miles Labor Government recognises the cost-of-living pressures facing Queenslanders – and we know that this pressure also felt at the bowser. Thank you for joining me on 28 August where Premier Miles and I announced our plan to help bring down the cost of fuel.

If re-elected in October, the Miles Labor Government will work with RACQ to trial a daily limit on increases in petrol prices, to no more than 5 cents a litre and we will establish state-owned fuel stations. The publicly owned fuel stations will operate on a cost recovery basis. They will sell petrol and diesel alongside electric vehicle fast chargers. The twelve initial sites will be determined by government, based on where competition is most needed across the state. The Miles Labor Government has committed to working with stakeholders, including independent retailers.

Public Transport

Our Labor Government understands the value of public transport in our communities. That's why we are fully funding and building Cross River Rail and have also slashed the cost of all Translink public transport services to 50 cents, no matter where you live or how far you travel. We have also made 50c fares permanent. In addition to these measures, we have slashed the cost of Airtrain by 50 per cent for twelve months and will work with Brisbane City Council on extending Brisbane Metro.

We know that significantly reducing the cost barrier to public transport will encourage more people to leave the car at home, leading to a reduction in road congestion. The Miles Labor Government has also announced that if re-elected we will create an Independent Transport Authority. It means there would be one single authority to align transport planning for trains, buses and ferries to help Queenslanders get where they need to be, seamlessly and sooner.

The plan to establish a new Independent Transport Authority will see Translink moved out from under the Department of Transport and Main Roads, with its own board and CEO. We will empower the authority to synchronise scheduling, services and planning across Queensland's transport system.

Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy

In 2022, the Labor Government released Queensland's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022–2032 and the first Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan 2022–2024. This is part of our plan to accelerate Queensland toward a cleaner, greener transport future while making sure our energy network supports the transition to zero emission vehicles.

The 10-year strategy reaffirms our commitment to support Queensland's shift to zero net emissions by 2050. This includes targets of 50 per cent of new passenger vehicle sales to be zero emission by 2030, rising to 100 per cent by 2036. The strategy targets every new TransLink funded bus added to the fleet to be a zero emission bus from 2025 in South East Queensland, and from 2025–2030 across regional Queensland.

A re-elected Miles Labor Government looks forward to working with RACQ to help deliver this important strategy to achieve a cleaner transport future.

Home Insurance

The Miles Labor Government acknowledges the RACQ's feedback regarding home insurance. Queensland currently has the lowest duty on insurance compared to any other state. In fact, the last time duty on insurance was increased was under an LNP Government when duty was increased by 20 per cent in the 2013-14 budget.

Since 2015, our Labor Government has not increased stamp duty on insurance. I am also pleased to advise that if re-elected the Miles Labor Government will rule out any increases on stamp duty on insurance.

As the Federal Government is responsible for the regulation of insurance, we continue to call on the Australian Government to ensure the \$10 billion Commonwealth Reinsurance Pool includes flooding surges and to allow for a longer claims period. This would deliver significant reductions in insurance premiums. There are many places in Queensland that no one thought would flood, that now do. That's not the owners' fault, so they shouldn't suffer the financial penalty.

Household resilience

Regarding investment in resilience and mitigations, the Miles Labor Government has and will continue to invest in efforts to reduce the impacts of disasters on property owners. In 2021-22 and 2022-23 our government, together with the Australian Government, invested \$270 million to improve disaster resilience by rebuilding more resilient infrastructure throughout Queensland.

Our 2024-25 budget provides funding of \$100 million over 3 years from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Efficiencies, jointly funded with the Australian Government, to support a suite of high priority disaster resilience and mitigation infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs and projects.

The *North Queensland Natural Disaster Mitigation Program* and the \$84.8 million *North Queensland Resilience Program*, co-funded with the Australian Government, is administering grants to local and region programs to support disaster resilience across several LGAs.

Our Household Resilience Program is helping low-income homeowners improve the resilience of their properties. Since 2018, our government has invested \$61.25 million with the Australian Government towards phases 1 to 3 of this program. To date, the program has benefitted nearly 4,500 homeowners, who have seen an average premium reduction of up to 13.3 per cent. An additional \$20 million was allocated in April 2024 for a new phase of the program.

Climate Proofing Our Roads & Our Plan for Growth

We know that our vast state is experiencing the impacts of unprecedented weather more often, spanning from the Far North all the way to the South East corner.

In the last disaster season alone, we experienced the devastation caused by the bushfires in Tara, Tropical Cyclone Jasper in the Far North, widespread destruction from the severe storms on Christmas Day in the South-East, and the impacts of ex-Tropical Cyclone Kirrily across the state. I would also like to acknowledge the huge effort from RoadTek workers who play such a crucial role in our rapid response and recovery following natural disasters.

The Miles Labor Government is committed to reducing emissions and minimising our environmental footprint while preparing for impacts caused by a changing climate. Queensland is the most affected jurisdiction in Australia from climate change, with our economy, environment, and transport system experiencing significant impacts. It is expected that extreme natural events such as intensified cyclones and storms, increased bushfires and gradual sea level rise will continue to impact Queensland.

Along with other sectors across Queensland's economy, transport has an important role to play to reduce emissions and ensure the transport system remains resilient and able to adapt to our changing climate. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is currently progressing a wide-ranging program of work to address climate change through both mitigation and adaptation responses. Additionally, to support a transport network that is safer for all Queenslanders, QTRIP 2024-25 to 2027-28 outlines investment of \$1.892 billion in road safety infrastructure, and \$5.231 billion in maintenance.

Road Safety

Road safety is a top priority for the Miles Labor Government. We are fully committed to taking action to bring down the number of lives lost on our roads. The *Queensland Road Safety Strategy 2022–31* and subsequent action plan is our plan to reduce the number of lives lost on our roads – we make no apology for taking a hard-line stance on road safety. By 2031, we are aiming to reduce fatalities by 50 per cent and serious injuries by 30 per cent.

The strategy and action plan work together to help us prioritise safety upgrades, improve driver education, make school zones safer and develop policies to reduce road crashes and trauma. Every single dollar that is collected through the Camera Detected Offence Program other than the costs of administering the program, goes back into road safety funding, including infrastructure and education. The Miles Labor Government is also investing over \$1.8 billion in road safety over the next four years through the Targeted Road Safety Program to make Queensland's roads as safe as they can be.

In contrast, we know the LNP have vowed to get rid of covert speed cameras in Queensland, despite evidence that they are preventing deaths on roads, and when they were last in government cut \$60 million from road safety funding and sacked more than 2,500 TMR workers – 20% of the workforce, cut funding to the Safer Roads Sooner program and cut the Road Attitudes Action Planning program (RAAP) – safety program for young drivers.

Keeping the Lights On

Queensland is transitioning to a more distributed energy system, and the Miles Labor Government recognises the grid-supporting potential of electric vehicles. The potential of home batteries and electric vehicles to provide energy resilience was demonstrated during the storms that wrought damage across our state last summer with Queenslanders' powering appliances and even lifesaving equipment using vehicle to load functions on their EVs.

Through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, we have provided \$12 million for charging infrastructure and trials to support efficient integration of electric vehicles into the electricity system. Phase 1 will feature 20, long dwell-time, grid supporting chargers at two commuter carparks at Coomera train and Eight Mile Plains bus stations. The next phase of the trial will see innovative kerbside chargers installed in high density suburbs to support EV drivers.

Developing nationally consistent standards, including for vehicle-to-grid, has been identified as a reform priority under the National Consumer Energy Resources roadmap, which was endorsed by energy ministers as part of the Energy and Climate Ministerial Council (ECMC) earlier this year.

Energy Queensland Limited (EQL) reviews and updates connection requirements to align with relevant Australian and New Zealand Standards to accommodate emerging needs, demands and technologies, including EVs and Electric Vehicle Service Equipment (EVSE). EQL has developed a Network EV tactical plan which includes being prepared for the connection of bi-directional charging infrastructure. Customers will be able to apply for connection of bidirectional chargers through EQLs customer portal.

A re-elected Miles Labor Government will continue to work with EQL to develop vehicle-to-grid capacity in Queensland.

The Miles Labor Government is also delivering the nation's largest virtual powerplant with two Local Renewable Energy Zone pilots at Townsville and Caloundra. These projects will not only share the benefits of Queensland's world leading rooftop solar uptake but will also be the testing bed for delivering innovative grid solutions.

The Battery Booster program builds on our successful Climate Smart Energy Savers program which delivered energy efficiency upgrades to over 72,000 households. Battery Booster has provided rebates to over 2,500 households, with more rebates expected to be provided as remaining applications and installations progress.

If re-elected, the Miles Labor Government will continue to support the rollout of distributed energy resources including community and household batteries and to integrate new technologies to support grid and household resilience.

We will build on our previous success and existing programs to unlock the potential benefits of batteries' including community, household, and vehicle batteries to operate safely in conditions that result in network impacts to improve resilience and deliver the benefits of distributed energy to communities and households across the state.

Conclusion

The Miles Labor Government recognises the important role RACQ plays in advocating for and helping to deliver safe, affordable and sustainable mobility for all Queenslanders. There is much at stake this election for Queensland's road and transport network and it's crucial that government has a properly funded and coherent plan to invest in real improvements.

We know the last time David Crisafulli and the LNP were in government they cut \$1.6 billion from roads and transport funding and sacked workers, including axing 700 RoadTek road builders. The LNP currently have a \$6.6 billion black hole created by their wild claim to build the Sunshine Coast Rail line to Maroochydore by 2032, and to date, the LNP have outlined no vision other than to cut projects, jobs and essential services.

David Crisafulli and the LNP are a risk to Queensland, and we know they will cut road and transport funding, just like they did last time.

Should the Miles Labor Government be re-elected, we look forward to continuing to work with you to further enhance our roads and transport network while delivering more investment for road safety initiatives.

Yours sincerely



CAMERON DICK MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Trade and Investment

22 / 10 / 2024