

# 2024 Queensland State Election



Every Queensland community deserves  
to be a liveable one



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# Introduction

**Every Queensland community contributes to the fabric of our nation. Every Queensland community deserves to be a liveable one.**

As Queenslanders prepare to cast their vote in the 2024 State Election, they do so at a time of deep transition and growth for Queensland.

A population boom, soaring living costs, a housing crisis, community safety and a transitioning economy loom large in the daily lives of voters.

**Councils are on the frontline of these challenges.**

Our research shows that Queenslanders consistently view their local council as closest to the people and community.\*

However, it also shows Queenslanders will be the losers if their local councils keep having others' costs and responsibilities shifted onto them, with low or no funding to do that extra work.

As councils continue to go above and beyond for the sake of maintaining their communities' liveability – with the estimated cost of filling gaps left by state and federal governments having risen by 378% over the last two decades – the number of Queenslanders rating the liveability of their local area as excellent or good is decreasing.\*

**Better funded councils make more liveable communities.**

It is time for the celebrated diversity of our local communities to be embedded into the priorities of those vying to lead our great state.

On behalf of our members, the LGAQ is calling on all political parties to align their state election commitments to the priorities of Queensland communities.

**Through their local council and the LGAQ, communities are asking candidates in the upcoming state election in October 2024 to:**



Reduce the cost of living



Place community needs at the centre of the transition to a clean energy future



Provide better local infrastructure



Address the housing crisis



Build safe, resilient and liveable communities



Empower First Nations Peoples



Fund councils so that they will be stronger



Protect the environment

We will ask Queensland communities to vote for the party who best responds to these priorities.

Central to this is ensuring funding for local councils is appropriate – because cuts to councils are cuts to community liveability.

Since its inception in 2020, the LGAQ's Vote For Local website has seen tens of thousands of Queenslanders search for how the election priorities of candidates will impact their daily lives in their local communities.

Let's work together to enhance the liveability of every Queensland community, giving every Queensland a fair go by supporting stronger councils.

**Alison Smith | LGAQ CEO**

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\* 2023 LGAQ Community Sentiment Research

# Reducing cost of living



Councils buy, consume and use the things that are impacted the most by rising inflation. Councils are stepping in as a provider of last resort to future-proof their communities – but action is needed to ensure it does not impact core service delivery and the cost of living for local ratepayers.

## **Reduce the skyrocketing costs of insurance**

for residents and business owners by addressing affordability challenges, with a focus on flood impacts and strata title in North Queensland.

**Provide certainty for ratepayers** through legislative changes to the *Land Valuations Act* that would include a reduction to the maximum number of years between valuations of land for local governments to three years.

**Undertake a Parliamentary Inquiry** into local government cost shifting – an unfair burden impacting ratepayers – with a focus on supply chain pressures and delivering infrastructure and services in local communities.

**Alleviate the cost of development on ratepayers** by reforming the infrastructure charges framework to rebalance the way trunk infrastructure is developed and funded.



# Energy and community transformation



As Queensland's economy transforms to a clean energy future, communities and their local councils need to ensure they have a central role in the development of place-based plans that respond to the social and economic challenges this will bring.

## **Enhance the economic and social sustainability of resource communities**

through a transformation policy framework, including the establishment of a Regional Transformation Authority, working closely with the National Net Zero Authority.

## **Ensure host communities benefit from the development of large-scale industry,**

by establishing a consistent social licence framework for new industries such as clean energy, critical minerals and hydrogen and review the framework for existing industries.

## **Overhaul the major project approval process**

to reform the way major projects are assessed, how social impacts are mitigated and the enforcement of conditions to ensure current and cumulative impacts are regulated for all stages of the project lifecycle.

## **Establish a dedicated regional transition fund to invest in critical infrastructure**

and to develop the workforce needed to enable the transitioning energy sector.

Queenslanders view local government as essential, and the closest level of government to the community. **77 per cent** of Queenslanders view local government as having **strong community connections**.\*



# Better local infrastructure



Roads, water and sewerage are the core ingredients of sustainable, viable and liveable communities and the foundations for economic development and social wellbeing – and councils cannot address this issue alone.

**Ensure funding certainty for local community infrastructure** with a guaranteed \$100 million per year for Works for Queensland and \$50 million per year for SEQ infrastructure, indexed by CPI.

**Improve road safety and upgrade regional roads** with a permanent funding boost of \$100 million per year, plus CPI indexation, for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme.

**Reintroduce a subsidy program**, such as the former Water and Sewerage Program (WASP), to assist regional councils maintain ageing infrastructure and a dedicated capital infrastructure program to provide safe, sustainable service levels and address necessary upgrades and renewals.

**Enhance project delivery** by reintroducing a standalone infrastructure pipeline planning program for local governments.



Ensuring local roads and footpaths are well built and maintained rates as the **#1 priority issue** for residents across Queensland.\*



# Addressing the housing crisis

Crippling housing shortages have been felt in all communities, with each part of the state facing its own unique challenges. Councils have a comprehensive Housing Strategy offering community driven solutions to help address the housing crisis.

**Invest, unlock, activate and implement solutions to the housing crisis**, as identified by Queensland councils in the Local Government Housing Strategy.

Housing continues to impact Queenslanders' perception of their community as a good place to live: approximately **9 in 10 Queenslanders** felt that housing is an issue within their local community in 2023.\*

A recent LGAQ report on the impact of cost shifting from other levels of government and the private sector onto councils found that councils were footing the bill for housing services costs – despite housing not being a local government responsibility.





# Building safe, resilient and liveable communities

From emergency preparedness, through to digitally connected, safe communities and streets – Queensland communities know they can rely on councils to help keep them safe. Strong state partnerships and support for locally driven solutions have never been more vital to keep Queensland communities safe and strong.

**Close the digital divide by boosting access and infrastructure** in a new formal partnership approach across all three levels of government to get infrastructure to where connectivity is needed.

**Partner with the Federal Government to increase opportunities** for local betterment projects and increase community resilience from local disasters with an additional \$200 million per year.

**Support the LGAQ's nine-point juvenile crime action plan** to help directly address the concerns of Queensland communities and preserve our state's unrivalled reputation as a safe place to live, work and visit.

**Introduce statewide statutory disclosure provisions**, similar to the approach taken in other jurisdictions, requiring detailed property sale disclosure statements which include flood and other natural hazard information.

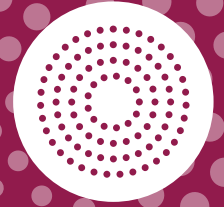
**Improve rural, regional and remote health services** with a Summit that generates a standalone health plan, developed with benchmarked service outcomes that are regularly monitored and measured.

Community safety is a priority issue for residents across Queensland. **2 out of 3 Queenslanders** point to the lifestyle and living conditions of an area as key to what makes a liveable community, with safety and a sense of community viewed as increasingly important.\*





# Empowering First Nations Peoples



Queensland's 17 First Nations councils – and the communities they represent – are a crucial part of the cultural, social, and economic fabric of the state. These communities must be heard – and supported – to ensure they continue to grow and thrive.

**Reduce overcrowding and Close the Gap on disadvantage** by partnering with Queensland councils to secure more federal funding that increases housing supply.

**Empower communities** with a permanent, guaranteed increase in State Government Financial Aid funding.

**Permanently extend the Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program** to deliver and manage water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure, contributing to water security and long-term environmental and public health outcomes.

**Better engagement with First Nations councils and their communities** to improve coordination and delivery of health services that meet local needs.



# Supporting stronger councils



Councils employ over 42,000 Queenslanders. They are committed to ensuring that transparency remains at the heart of the sector as they work daily to make decisions which shape and influence the liveability of every Queensland community.

**Reinforce the autonomy of local governments** by ruling out a state imposed rate capping policy for Queensland councils and any changes to the current voting system (including Compulsory Preferential Voting).

**Increase training and apprenticeship opportunities** with local governments by maintaining and enhancing existing partnership projects.

**Ensure regular and ongoing scrutiny of the councillor conduct system** and the impact of Conflict of Interest (COI) laws by supporting further changes as needed.

**Support the development of more Regional University Study Hubs** to enable opportunities to improve liveability and address workforce challenges in rural and remote communities.

**Undertake a review of new election campaign expenditure cap laws** as soon as possible.

**Reinforce the planning authority of local governments** and local land use decision making through a new planning partnership enforced through a specific codicil to the Partners-in-Government Agreement, signed by the Planning Minister and LGAQ within six months of the state election.

**Implement all legislative reforms** recommended by the PCCC Logan Inquiry and Crime and Corruption Commission - Commission of Inquiry, within 12 months of the state election.

Councils are the key to liveable communities. **Over two thirds of Queenslanders** say their local council provides vital services every day of the year. Funding cuts to councils are cuts to community liveability.\*

**Develop and resource an expert Security Operations Centre** as a shared services concept to improve cyber security management for local government authorities.

# Protecting the environment



Queensland's natural assets must be protected to be enjoyed by today's generation – and generations to come.

**Boost biosecurity on-ground actions** with regionalised funding to support the delivery of priority pest animal and weed management, with \$14 million over the next four years.

**Fully fund the Wild Dog Barrier Fence and Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board Fence** as a biosecurity barrier that protects local communities from threats, with \$6 million a year.

**Partner with Queensland's 32 Reef Councils** to support practical measures and local initiatives that improve the health and prospects of the Great Barrier Reef.

**Support the delivery of local and regional initiatives** that safeguard Queensland's iconic species and landscapes from current and future threats, including the delivery of koala threat abatement activities and the management of urban flying fox roosts, with \$50 million over three years.

**Fund new waste infrastructure** needed to reach landfill diversion targets in regional and First Nations communities, with \$400 million as a dedicated program under the Jobs and Recycling Fund.

**Establish a moratorium on carbon capture and storage projects** that directly impact the Great Artesian Basin and advocate for Federal Government support to protect the Basin as a strategic water source for rural and remote communities.

Using data from Regional Waste Management Plans to **review and align the waste levy, waste levy zones, advance payment schedule and environmental regulation** to better transition to a circular economy.





## Sarah Vogler

LGAQ Head of Advocacy

Phone: 07 3000 2286

Email: [sarah\\_vogler@lgaq.asn.au](mailto:sarah_vogler@lgaq.asn.au)



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