

## KATTER'S AUSTRALIAN PARTY

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### POLICY DOCUMENT

#### *Getting outcomes for regional Queensland*

In the current political climate, tightly balanced parliaments are the norm. This presents an opportunity for the marginalised regions of Queensland to be heard, and the current overemphasis on South East Queensland to be reversed.

However, this can only happen if the KAP is in a position to form minority government in a hung parliament. To achieve this the KAP must win enough seats to ensure that neither major party can govern in their own right, thereby forcing them to negotiate for our support and a better deal for regional Queensland.

If KAP has the opportunity to form minority government we will only negotiate with parties that promise deliver the KAP's policy priorities.

KAP policies focus on the social and economic development of our regions by reinvigorating investment in our key industries of agriculture, tourism, mining and processing, whilst ensuring that we maximise the household budget, not the bottom-line of government businesses.

We will stop government interference in our regional lifestyles by removing restrictions on recreational activities and putting trust and responsibility back into the hands of the individual citizen.

The KAP is unashamedly focussed on regional Queensland because we know what's good for the regions is good for the state.

Below is a list of the KAP's key policies.

## **POLICY AREA: NORTH QUEENSLAND SEPARATE STATE**

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### **Initiate the process of establishing a separate North Queensland state**

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next state election we will immediately initiate the process of establishing North Queensland as a separate state. The first step in this process is the preparation of an implementation roadmap. The roadmap will be developed by an independent committee of experts with knowledge of the legal, economic and social factors to be addressed in the establishment of the state of North Queensland.

The roadmap will include a recommendation on the appropriate mechanism to formally establish the State, either through an act of parliament or through referendum.

**Electorate:** All North Queensland Electorates

**Type:** North Queensland Separate State

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: ENERGY

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### **Immediately addressing the electricity price crisis**

Electricity is a key enabler of economic activity, particularly in industries which underpin the regional Queensland economy such as agriculture, mining and minerals processing. Successive Labor and LNP governments have driven up electricity prices by allowing their power businesses to overcharge households and businesses. If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will immediately implement the following measures to reduce electricity prices.

- Ban the Optimised Replacement Cost valuation methodology used by Powerlink, Ergon and Energen to save customers \$500 million to \$1 billion p.a. and permanently put downward pressure on prices.
- Remove the Competitive Neutrality Fee, estimated to permanently reduce prices by at least 10%.
- Remove the unnecessary margins applied by Ergon to the calculation of regulated prices. This will result in an immediate 5% price reduction for residential and business customers;
- Introduce competition into regional Queensland by allowing any retailer to deliver the state government subsidy (Community Service Obligation) currently only available to the monopoly provider Ergon Energy.
- Put an indefinite freeze on the escalation of Transitional tariffs used in irrigation to maintain the competitiveness of our agricultural industry.

These measures will immediately reduce electricity prices and give households and businesses choice in where they buy their electricity.

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Energy

**Timing:** 2018

### **CuString Project (Copper String) – connecting the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market (NEM)**

The project calls for the construction of a high voltage electricity transmission line to connect the North West Minerals Province to the National Electricity Market. This important infrastructure will,

- Provide better access to energy supply for existing projects;
- Reduce the reliance on gas in the NWMP.
- Significantly improve the cost of energy for new projects, making development more likely;
- Support the development of vast renewable energy resources in the North West; and
- Provide NEM access for the highly valuable, reliable gas fired generation that currently exists in the NWMP.

The project will have significant benefits for the entire region through employment and services provided to the major projects driven by access to cheaper and more attractive energy supply.

Recent developments in the energy market, as well as the potential for further growth of mining and processing in the North West make the CuString project more important than ever before.

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will ensure State and Federal support is provided so that the regional and state wide benefits of this important infrastructure are realised.

**Electorate:** All NQ Electorates

**Type:** Energy

**Timing:** 2019

### **Gas supply policy – restoring our global competitive advantage in energy**

Globally competitive energy costs have been one of the biggest driver of our most valuable export industries such as minerals processing. Over the past 15 years we've seen this competitive advantage disappear as Labor and LNP governments have driven prices up. Both manufacturing and minerals processing have declined and energy costs for agriculture have risen significantly reducing the value of our primary producers.

The KAP wants to restore our competitive advantage by pursuing policies that minimise energy costs for households and businesses.

**Electorate:** All Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Energy

**Timing:** 2019

If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will introduce legislation that will establish an automatic Australian Market Supply Condition on any new gas production in Queensland. This will require all new Queensland gas to be supplied to domestic end users unless it can be shown that exporting the gas will provide a greater contribution to the domestic economy. Contribution to the domestic economy is to be measured by long term job creation (either directly or in secondary industries which rely heavily on gas as an input) and economic value created in secondary industries.

**Isolated solar power scheme**

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will implement a scheme for grants and subsidised loans for primary producers to install solar pumps for irrigation and stock watering as well as rooftop solar for homes and workshops. This initiative will primarily be targeted at properties not currently connected to the electricity grid to offset the high cost of diesel.

**Electorate:** Rural Electorates

**Type:** Energy

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY

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### Special Economic Zone scheme

Billions of dollars in government revenue and economic activity is generated from mining and agriculture in regional Queensland. This value is at risk through rising costs and ever increasing regulation imposed by a south east Queensland government. Action is needed to stimulate private investment in regional Queensland.

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will implement a Special Economic Zone scheme to facilitate the provision of targeted incentives to industries and new projects in areas with highly prospective mineral, energy and agricultural resources. This classification would enable the Government of the day to provide special regulatory and commercial arrangements for a number of key activities including regulated transport services, agricultural water allocations, energy supply and royalties.

Under this scheme the North West Minerals Province will be provided with immediate classification and other regional areas will be investigated as a matter of priority.

**Electorate:** All regional Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry  
**Timing:** 2019

### Royalty retention – fair retention of royalties and more investment in Regional Queensland

Currently key mineral and energy producing areas of Queensland contribute a disproportionately high amount to state economic activity whilst at the same time receiving an inadequate share of budgetary investment.

Historic estimates of Gross Regional Product show that Mackay contributed more than twice that of the State average while the North West was three times the average.

In the 2016-17 budget, \$2.65 billion was allocated to capacity enhancing investment across the state. Of this, only \$147 million (less than 6%) was allocated to projects in North and Outback Queensland.

This chronic underinvestment is leading to poor outcomes for regional Queensland. Unemployment in North Queensland is higher on average than South East Queensland and population growth is slower.

If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will implement a new royalty framework that ensures a greater proportion of royalties are re-invested into the regions in which they created. We will also ensure \$1 billion is allocated over the next three years for new large scale infrastructure projects in North Queensland.

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry  
**Timing:** 2018

### Royalty ramp up arrangements in special economic zones

In areas captured under the KAP's special economic zone policy, royalty ramp-up arrangements will be available to new large mineral and energy projects that can demonstrate a clear economic benefit.

The royalty ramp up mechanism improves the likelihood of a project going ahead by providing an upfront royalty discount and increasing the royalty rate over the first five years of the project. Importantly, the full royalty owed to the people of Queensland is paid over the life of the project.

A royalty ramp up is required to re-start major project investment in key regional economies. To ensure companies are encouraged to invest quickly, the scheme will only be available until 2025. Additionally, conditions will be attached to any royalty ramp up agreement that require the use of local labour and services.

Our biggest global mining competitors such as Canada utilise generous tax arrangements to encourage investment. If Queensland doesn't offer similar incentives, we will lose our position as a global mining leader.

**Electorate:** North West Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry  
**Timing:** 2019

### Supporting mining and agriculture through better transport infrastructure; Townsville to Mount Isa rail line

The Townsville to Mount Isa rail line (Great Northern Railway) is a key piece of infrastructure providing mining and agricultural producers in North West Queensland

**Electorate:** North and North West Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

access to domestic and international markets. The line is operated by Queensland Rail (QR) and regulated by the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA).

The goods transported on the line stimulate significant flow on economic activity on the east coast including through the port of Townsville.

Users of the line have faced massive price increases and access issues due to an overly complex and unbalanced pricing and access regime imposed by the government.

This has resulted in the line being underutilised and freight moving on to the Flinders Highway creating safety and maintenance issues.

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will ensure that usage charges and access arrangements encourage higher utilisation of the line by directing the QCA to implement a pricing framework that removes the current impediments.

#### **Reducing petrol prices and stimulating Queensland's agriculture industry through an ethanol mandate**

Ethanol has become a significant opportunity for the Queensland economy. Global demand for biofuels is increasing and local consumers are seeing the benefits of lower priced ethanol blended fuels

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will increase the ethanol mandate from 4% to 10% by 2025. This will provide great opportunities for producers and local manufactures and processors, as well as increasing demand for agricultural products.

#### **Gulf and Cape Cattle roads**

There is huge potential to increase the value of the cattle industry in the Gulf and Cape York. A thriving cattle industry will provide social and economic benefits through greater employment and better utilisation of the vast grazing country.

A key to realising this value is to ensure there is access to eastern and southern markets for finishing and slaughter. Access to these key markets requires investment in roads to enable Triple Road Trains to safely travel to and from Cape York and the Gulf. This policy focusses on road improvements to enable Triple Road Trains to travel more frequently and safely from Cape York to the Tablelands.

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will deliver up to \$100 million to upgrade key roads to enable Triple Road Trains to access Gulf and Cape York cattle hubs.

#### **Development of Rodeo Grounds & Cattle Yards**

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will ensure the development of multipurpose facilities incorporating cattle yards and rodeo grounds at key locations across the Cape and Gulf regions. The facilities will be used to promote the aboriginal cattle industry whilst providing important community infrastructure for rodeos and other social events.

The facilities will be constructed with local labour to compliment further development of the beef industry which is widely acknowledged as the best industry for providing a pathway forward for people of the Cape.

A pilot facility will be built at Cooktown to prove the concept before rolling it out across other locations.

#### **Coalstoun Lakes Dam**

The Coalstoun Lakes dam is a significant water infrastructure project located in the North Burnett region. The project has been overlooked by both state and federal governments despite the huge potential to expand irrigated agriculture in a region with the best volcanic soil in Queensland.

The project calls for the construction of a dam and infrastructure to utilise the significant unallocated water in the Paradise Dam which is approximately 40km away.

**Timing:** 2018

**Electorate:** All Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

**Electorate:** Gulf and Cape Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2019

**Electorate:** Gulf and Cape Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

**Electorate:** South Queensland Regional Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

If successfully established the project would support hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity through increased production of high value crops such as peanuts and watermelons.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will allocate \$3.5 million for a detailed feasibility study into the project.

#### **Hells Gate Dam**

The Hells Gates Dam is a major water infrastructure project located 120 kilometres north of Charters Towers and north west of Townsville to support large-scale irrigated agriculture on the upper Burdekin River and to secure a long-term water supply for Townsville.

The project will add significant value to the regions agricultural sector and broader economy through job-creation, tourism and renewable energy potential.

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will initiate project development activities and ensure state and federal government provide capital commitments to support the projects construction.

**Electorate:** All North Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

#### **Sealing the Hann Highway**

The Hann Highway is a more direct and efficient route for transporting freight between North Queensland and southern states. The highway will reduce the distances between Far North Queensland towns and Melbourne by more than 500 km. The Hann Highway also has the benefit of reducing freight traffic on the Bruce Highway and stimulating economic activity in western Queensland.

Approximately \$40 million is required to fully seal the Highway. If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will ensure state and federal funding is made available to seal the remaining parts of the Highway.

**Electorate:** North and North West Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

#### **State ownership of the Galilee basin rail line**

The state and federal government are currently squandering a significant opportunity for the people of Queensland to benefit from the development of the Galilee basin. The federal government is irresponsibly proposing to provide a subsidised loan to Adani to fund the construction of the Galilee rail line. If the government funds the line without ownership or control opportunities for further mining development in the Galilee are missed.

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will move to have the Galilee basin rail line developed as government owned shared infrastructure which will provide access to Adani and other miners looking at developing projects in the area. This will enable the people of Queensland to fully benefit from the development of the Galilee basin.

**Electorate:** North and North West Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Infrastructure and Industry

**Timing:** 2018

#### **Taxis – provide level playing field and ensure community safety**

Rideshare services such as Uber continue to operate with little regard for community safety and access to personalised transport services by vulnerable Queenslanders and people in regional areas. The impact these services are having on Queensland taxi owners and drivers will likely lead to a reduction in availability of transport services for people outside major cities as well as people with disabilities and special needs. At the same time, rideshare services operate outside the regulations which exist to keep people safe.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will introduce laws that ensure rideshare operators must comply with the same safety standards and service levels that exist for taxis.

**Electorate:** All

Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Taxis

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: AGRICULTURE

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### Vegetation management

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will introduce legislation which enables every landholder running a commercial agricultural enterprise in North and Western Queensland to clear 3% their land for cropping activities.

The current approach by the government to clearing for High Value Agriculture (HVA) and Irrigated High Value Agriculture (IHVA) is creating a barrier to the development of cropping in North and Western Queensland.

This KAP policy, combined with our water allocation policy, will enable farmers to grow fodder crops to increase productivity and open up new opportunities in cattle finishing and processing.

Safeguards will be put in place to ensure clearing is only undertaken where a farmer has demonstrated a robust development plan that does not risk broad environmental harm.

**Electorate:** West and North West Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Agriculture

**Timing:** 2018

### North West Queensland Irrigation Development Scheme

North West Queensland has massive potential for irrigated agriculture to grow both high value crops and fodder crops to support cattle finishing and processing.

Government water allocations over the past 10 years have resulted in virtually no irrigation development in the region. The cost and conditions imposed by the Government on water releases from the Flinders and Gilbert river systems are incompatible with development.

If the KAP is given the balance of power at the next election we will stimulate irrigation development in the North West by providing a number of free, non-transferrable, licences under a North West Queensland Irrigation Development Scheme. Eligible independent landholders on the Flinders and Gilbert river systems will be able to take up 3,000 mega-litres of water per annum under a free licence. This will allow independent farm operators to grow crops to support their existing livestock operations or to diversify their farm income.

50,000ML will be set aside from each system for the trial period of five years at which time the program will be reviewed to determine if the level of uptake and development is sufficient to expand the program.

Allocations will only be provided to producers with a demonstrated irrigation plan and they will be non-transferable between landholders.

Landholders who successfully develop an irrigation project during the trial period will automatically have their trial licence extended for a further 20 years.

**Electorate:** North West Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Agriculture

**Timing:** 2018

### Fair Milk Mark

The Queensland dairy industry is in chronic decline with the number of dairy farms in Queensland dropping to 430 from over 1,100 in just 15 years. In 2015, the dairy industry brought approximately \$4 billion into the Australian economy and employed 50,000 people. We are at risk of losing this significant industry due to the devastating impact of the Coles and Woolworths duopoly and their treatment of farmers.

If we hold the balance of power after the next election the KAP will introduce voluntary logos to be placed on containers of milk that will inform Queensland consumers that a fair price has been paid to the farmer. The logo is a voluntary market mechanism that processors can choose to incorporate into existing milk labels.

KAP member for Dalrymple, Shane Knuth has attempted to introduce this voluntary scheme into parliament on a number of occasions only to be let down by the major parties.

**Electorate:** Dairy producing Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Agriculture

**Timing:** 2018

### Rural Development Bank

If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will introduce a Bill to establish a Rural Development Bank to accelerate rural and regional development.

**Electorate:** West and North West Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Agriculture

**Timing:** 2018

The bank will provide businesses in rural and regional Queensland the opportunity to access concessional finance to make business improvements and expansion.

There are many opportunities across different industries which go unrealised because of lack of access to reasonably priced finance. The major financial institutions underservice regional Queensland due to a lack of scale and higher levels of profitability in metropolitan areas. This is resulting in a gap in the market for rural finance which is not being filled by commercial lenders.

The rural bank will work under flexible arrangements where it can act as sole provider or compliment activities of commercial lenders willing to provide reasonably priced finance.

**Multi-Peril Insurance – Funding for data to support greater uptake of Multi-Peril insurance**

Multi-Peril insurance currently has a low level of uptake across the Queensland agricultural industries due to the high cost of premiums. The cost of premiums can be brought down by gathering more data on the risks and impacts of production loss on farm businesses.

If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will fund up to \$2 million in research to gather the data necessary to make Multi-Peril insurance more accessible to our primary producers.

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Agriculture

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: CRIME AND JUSTICE

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### **Crime and justice – Relocation sentencing**

Crime is a significant problem in communities across Queensland, but particularly in regional areas. Across the North it is clear that car theft, break and enter and violent crime are an increasing concern for residents.

Traditional sentencing and incarceration laws are not providing an adequate deterrent or aiding in the rehabilitation of criminals, particularly young offenders. The KAP approach is centred on "Relocation Sentencing". This will give magistrates the ability to effectively banish offenders from the community in which they committed the crime. They would be sent to an approved property in a remote location where they would work on the land to learn life skills to become better members of society.

If the KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will implement the relocation sentencing policy as follows,

- Introduce laws to allow magistrates to have the option to impose a "relocation sentence" on repeat juvenile offenders.
- Provide funding and initiate the development of a suitable property and facilities in remote North West Queensland.

**Electorate:** All Queensland

**Electorates**

**Type:** Crime and Justice

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: COMMUNITY SAFETY AND AMENITY

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### **Croc culling**

Crocodile sightings and attacks are becoming more frequent in North Queensland placing the community at risk and impacting on the "great outdoors" lifestyle we cherish in North Queensland.

The KAP has introduced legislation into state parliament that will enable culling of crocodiles by landholders and indigenous groups, as well as the establishment of an egg harvesting program and other local industries that make use of crocodile carcass. If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will ensure this policy is implemented.

**Electorate:** North Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Community Safety and Amenity

**Timing:** 2018

### **Removal of flying foxes**

If given the balance of power the KAP will immediately call for tenders for contractors to remove flying foxes from populated areas. Flying Fox Removal Funding available and accessible for Councils or contractors.

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Community Safety and Amenity

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: FIREARMS

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### **Reversal of changes to the National Firearms Agreement**

The state Labor government under Annastacia Palaszczuk, with help from the LNP, have agreed to changes to the National Firearms Agreement which will have a significant negative impact on licenced firearms owners. This includes limiting the amount of ammunition that can be purchased and reclassifying lever action shotguns making them unavailable to most licenced shooters. These changes are based on political bias with no evidence supporting claims of an increase in community safety.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will reverse the changes made to the NFA that were introduced by Labor and supported by the LNP. This ensure the rights of licenced firearm owners are protected.

**Electorate:** All Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Firearms  
**Timing:** 2018

### **As of right access to category H firearms by any primary producer with a weapons licence**

Any owner of a farming operation who has demonstrated responsible firearm ownership by holding a current weapons licence of category A, B or higher has a right to own a category H firearm.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election immediate steps will be taken to amend the practices of the weapons licencing division of the Queensland Police to ensure farmers have access to category H firearms.

**Electorate:** Rural Electorates  
**Type:** Firearms  
**Timing:** 2018

### **Introduce a real-time licence verification system to replace paper based permits to acquire for Category A and B firearms.**

The current weapons licencing system requires manual processing of applications for permits to acquire for category A and B weapons. This system is slow and inefficient and creates community safety issues. The time taken to process an application may mean individuals who commit an offence that make them ineligible to hold a licence are not captured.

The resources required by the manual system can be better invested into front line services focussed on stopping illegal weapons.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will introduce a real time licencing system that enables permits to acquire to be processed at the point of sale. This will mean less resources are required to process applications and the police and retailers will have real time data on the eligibility of individuals to hold a licence.

**Electorate:** All Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** Firearms  
**Timing:** 2018

## **POLICY AREA: FIRST AUSTRALIANS**

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### **Indigenous economic development – Blue cards**

The existing Blue Card system, whilst well-meaning in its intention, is not practical in its application to remote communities. Numerous examples exist where individuals who have made significant attempts to reform their behaviour are faced with no hope of accessing employment due to the Blue Card system. The current system is a significant barrier to economic development in Indigenous communities. Robbie Katter introduced a Bill into parliament in 2017 that calls for the creation of a new class of Blue Card that applies only to indigenous communities. The objectives of this Bill are to provide a new blue card framework that empowers Indigenous communities to make decisions which best serve their interests in relation to child protection and employment of community members. The new framework allows Community Justice Groups to issue Blue Cards, rather than the department, who typically have no knowledge of the circumstances or the individuals involved. If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will ensure this policy is implemented.

### **Title deeds for first Australians**

The ability for first Australian communities to improve economic opportunities is significantly inhibited by lack of legal title to land in indigenous Community Areas. Currently no bank will lend money for commercial development without the security of a title deed. According to Government records there has only been one title deed issued in 25 years. Under the 1984 legislation nearly 1,000 title deeds were issued in a little over three years. If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will ensure inalienable title deeds can be issued to first Australians for land in Community Areas.

### **Alcohol management plans**

Review and amend alcohol management plans (AMP) for indigenous communities at risk from increased use of drugs and supply of homebrew liquor. Targeted licencing and carriage allowances in communities at risk will ensure that drugs and homebrew do not put lives at risk whilst promoting a responsible drinking culture in those communities.

**Electorate:** Electorates with Indigenous Communities  
**Type:** First Australians  
**Timing:** 2018

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates  
**Type:** First Australians  
**Timing:** 2018

**Electorate:** Electorates with Indigenous Communities  
**Type:** First Australians  
**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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### **Rural pubs and clubs**

The current liquor licencing framework requires all pubs to pay the same licence fee regardless of their size or location. This means that a tiny pub in Georgetown pays the same licence fee as the Breakfast Creek Hotel in Brisbane.

In 2017 the KAP introduced a Bill into parliament to establish a new discount licencing framework for pubs in remote areas who will only have to pay 10% of the current licence fee. This Bill gained the support of all sides of politics however it failed to make it to a vote due to the election being called in late October 2017.

This policy reflects the important role pubs play in small towns where they are as much community venue as they are a place to drink. The KAP wants to see small towns thrive and we will deliver this by ensuring businesses are not overburdened by unnecessary fees.

If KAP holds the balance of power at the next election we will ensure this policy is implemented and it is extended to clubs in rural areas.

**Electorate:** Rural Electorates

**Type:** Community and Local Government

**Timing:** 2018

### **Review of the methodology for Financial Assistance Grants**

Local Government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) require a review into the methodology of funding allocations across local Councils. Currently Regional local councils get allocated too small a proportion of the total available monies.

Metropolitan councils get allocated funding based on a similar proportional allocation methodology to regional councils, despite the need for funds being far greater outside south east Queensland. For metropolitan councils, FAGs make up a minute percentage of their annual revenue and would suffer little from a reduction in their allocation. Regional councils rely heavily on the grants to undertake vital works and stimulate local employment.

If KAP holds the balance of power after the election we will immediately call for a change to the methodology for Local Government Financial Assistance Grants to ensure regional councils are given a greater share.

**Electorate:** All Regional Queensland Electorates

**Type:** Community and Local Government

**Timing:** 2018

## POLICY AREA: PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

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### **Reforming politics – a new Oath to the people of Queensland**

In recent years Queenslanders have been let down by politicians that seem more interested in serving their party than the people who voted for them.

People deserve better than politicians who say one thing and then do another and vote the way their party wants them to vote, instead of doing what's best for their constituents.

The current political system puts far too little obligation on politicians to act in the interests of their constituents above anything else.

The oath taken by each member of parliament when they are sworn in, places no obligation on them to put their constituents first.

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will move that each member of parliament takes a new public oath that explicitly says they must always put the interests of their constituents above the interests of their party. This will ensure that each member is obliged to work for their electorate, not for their party.

### **Reforming politics – levelling the playing field in parliament**

Current parliamentary process and procedure is unbalanced and creates an unjust disadvantage for non-government MPs, even when there is no clear mandate for a major party to govern. This imbalance is present in a number of aspects of parliamentary activity including,

- Preferential timing for the passage of government bills through the parliamentary and committee process;
- Allocation of time between minor parties and major parties for debate and questions in parliament; and
- Standing and sessional orders which enable the government to inhibit fair consideration of non-government bills.

If KAP holds the balance of power after the next election we will immediately move to amend parliamentary rules and procedures that create an imbalance between the parliamentary participation of major and minor parties. This will enable members who represent regional electorates to have greater opportunity to move legislation that supports their electorates.

**Electorate:** All Queensland  
Electoralates

**Type:** Parliamentary Reform

**Timing:** Immediate

**Electorate:** All Queensland  
Electoralates

**Type:** Parliamentary Reform

**Timing:** Immediate

## POLICY AREA: HEALTH

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**Opt-out scheme for organ donation** If elected at the next state election the KAP will put forward a bill to create an “Opt-out” scheme for organ donation in Queensland. The scheme has the potential to greatly increase organ donation whilst still protecting individual freedoms to make a personal choice to be an organ donor.

**Electorate:** All Queensland  
Electorates  
**Type:** Health  
**Timing:** 2018