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**ELLISA PARKER**

Maranoa Candidate 2022 Federal Election  
Queensland Greens

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your Federal election platform.

#### PRIORITY 1: DOING MORE FOR QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA

The Greens welcome a Western Queensland productivity partnership for industry and infrastructure investment and innovation. Australia has brilliant scientists, skilled engineers, entrepreneurs and a world-class workforce. The Greens truly believe if we back them and invest in our manufacturing industry, we can tackle the climate crisis, strengthen rural communities and create well paid secure jobs. As a part of the above collaboration, the greens believe Australia offshores too much of its recycling and doesn't reuse our e-waste. We aren't just wasting the materials we use, we are wasting an opportunity to create jobs and economic opportunities here. Transitioning to circular economies could generate \$175 billion in direct benefit to the economy and rural Queensland should be a part of this.

The Green's plan includes:

- Using low cost, green energy to rebuild our manufacturing industry, support new green export industries and bring back jobs that have gone overseas
- A rapid transition to 100% renewables, creating jobs, industries and innovation along the way
- Establish the Manufacturing Australia Fund to help local manufacturers recover from the pandemic, move off coal and gas and expand into new sectors
- Use government investment to drive new export industries in green hydrogen and minerals processing, ensuring Australia becomes a renewable superpower
- Buy Local, Buy Green - make sure the government is buying products made by local workers produced with clean, green materials and power
- Provide \$1bn for a nationwide compostable processing scheme supporting local councils to build industrial compostable facilities, which will make the best use of our recycled goods, will create thousands of jobs, and help us live more sustainably
- Invest \$500 million over five years into infrastructure and programs to reboot recycling
- Invest \$50 million in waste avoidance and reduction research
- Support the Right to Repair to minimise e-waste
- Tackle plastic waste by phasing out key single-use plastics and a national approach to container deposit schemes to encourage reuse

The Greens recognise the benefits of secure, predictable, longer-term funding to allow local governments to plan for and deliver projects in their communities. We will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure funding is delivered in the most efficient, effective, and responsive way. To end pork-barrelling and ensure that communities get the infrastructure they actually need, we will require all infrastructure projects receiving more than \$100M in Commonwealth funding to be subject to an independent assessment, including in-depth community consultation.

The Greens will also ensure that communities are prepared for climate change. The government established an Emergency Response Fund in 2019 to invest in infrastructure to keep communities safe. But the government has prioritised earning investment returns for itself over-investing in climate exposed communities. Since its inception, the Fund has earned the government \$836 million dollars, yet it has only spent 48 \$210 million on disaster recovery and just \$100 million on mitigation infrastructure, leaving 49 communities like Lismore and Ballina exposed while the government pockets the difference. The Greens will change these investment restrictions so that \$600m is spent per year until 2026-27, and \$300m per year from 2027-28 on public infrastructure mitigation works. This funding will allow communities to undertake much-needed infrastructure upgrades that reduce the devastating impacts of the climate crisis.

Our emergency services are much bigger than firefighters, ambulances and police. During natural disasters, the ABC brings communities lifesaving information, the Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO study weather changes and send warnings to give first responders the information they need. Green's plan funds hundreds of thousands of jobs to restore the public service, and we will also double the current funding for Emergency Service operations, providing \$5 billion in extra funding allocated to the States. This funding will make sure our Emergency Services have the latest equipment and personnel they need to respond to natural disasters exacerbated by global heating.

For more information: page 53 <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/Greens-2022-Plan--Powering-Past-Coal-and-Gas.pdf>

As the elected representative for Maranoa, I will work closely with the WQAC and other organisations to get manufacturing jobs and innovation into the rural communities.

## PRIORITY 2: MOVE TO MORE, IN WESTERN QUEENSLAND

We have a crisis of affordable housing Australia wide. Many young people will never be able to buy a home, rents are too expensive and public housing waiting lists grow longer and longer. The Greens are committed to the big solutions required to solve the housing crisis in Australia, which is why we have a fully costed plan to build one million new homes across the country over the next 20 years. The scale of this build will obliterate public housing waiting lists and the design of our scheme will open up new ways of imagining public housing in our communities through shared ownership and greater community involvement. Local councils will play a role in the placement and provision of these new homes, in partnership with Federal and State governments and other housing providers. The Greens will continue to advocate for the Local Government, in this case, the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils, to have a role in making housing more affordable and accessible to all.

For more information, visit <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/Greens-2022-Policy-Platform--Services--Homes.pdf>

The Covid19 Pandemic and subsequent \*Tree Change Migration\* have demonstrated that Australians are returning to our rural communities. We must ensure that all our rural and remote communities have adequate services to support their residents.

For the well-being of our communities, we must ensure that basic public services and infrastructure are available for each community to thrive. Although we have seen recent upgrades to Kingaroy, Blackall and Roma hospitals, during my campaign ventures I was told by a Roma resident that, yet another GP has left Roma, the remaining GPs are unable to increase their capacity and therefore people are now required to drive 1hr to Surat to see a GP. We must ensure that the 18 hospitals and subsequent allied health & emergency services in the electorate are staffed, equipped and provided with the support they need to keep our communities healthy. An effective health system must be based on primary health care and preventive measures such as health promotion, disease prevention, risk reduction and early intervention to manage chronic disease and reduce ill-health and avoidable hospital admissions. The Greens will get dental and mental health into Medicare and get these regular services to our rural and remote communities. We must facilitate job creation to ensure services including NDIS & My Age care are successfully delivered within these communities. All people should at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious foods that meet their dietary, cultural and religious needs for an active and healthy life.

Our Western Queensland rural and remote communities deserve quality education for the next generation. The Queensland CountryLife just ran an article labelled ‘Bush worst hit by childcare crisis’ the report noted that it is clear that rural and remote communities are being left behind in early childhood education service and delivery. The green will continue to fight to ensure that from early childhood, through to school, university and TAFE, education should be for free, no matter who you are or where you live. We also will abolish student debts, and restore the TAFE system, which has been privatised by Liberal and Labor. And we need to ensure that teachers, trainers, support staff, academics and early childhood educators are paid and housed properly.

By developing our rural communities to become more and more self-sufficient and self-determined we can achieve this goal. Furthermore as the elected representative for Maranoa, through constant consultation with the community, WQAC and community organisations, I will ensure that adequate sustainable and affordable housing is delivered to our rural communities and that they receive the standard of services that they deserve.

### PRIORITY 3: GROWING MORE FOR YOU

The Greens will support the agricultural industry in moving to Net-Zero.

The Greens will enable the Clean Energy Regulator to set a price floor on the carbon market by becoming a fixed purchaser of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) at \$50 a tonne, giving farmers confidence, when it comes to adopting new practices or altering land-use patterns, they will get a guaranteed price. We will also restore the Carbon Farming Futures program of \$25 million per annum, which the Coalition Government axed in 2016. These grants saw over \$139 million go into over 200 projects across the country. By restoring funding to this program, we can see hundreds more carbon-reducing projects get off the ground.

More information is available on page 49, <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-04/Greens-2022-Plan--Powering-Past-Coal-and-Gas.pdf>

As part of our Green Australia plan, the Greens will invest \$1.8 billion over four years to restore habitat, regenerate forest and bushland, coastal areas and rivers and reclaim green spaces in our cities and suburbs. Our Green Australia Plan includes stopping invasive species and weeds.

For more, visit <https://greens.org.au/sites/default/files/2022-01/Greens-2022-Policy-Platform--Enviro--GreenAus.pdf>

As the elected representative for Maranoa, I will continually engage with relevant stakeholders to mitigate any red or green tape. We must work smarter, not harder, and from my discussions and visiting around the electorate, talking with Grain Growers Inc, CQ Inland port, graziers other key industries, I can definitively state that we are all on the same page when it comes to agriculture and its future resilience and longevity.

### PRIORITY 4: TRANSPORTING MORE FOR YOU

The Greens are committed to ensuring that infrastructure planning is assessed through transparent means and that grant funds are allocated equitably and according to community needs. We will empower community voices to ensure projects are made to serve the community’s best interests, not just boost profits. Investing in public transport will reduce traffic, get us where we want to go faster, cost less and clean up the air we breathe.

The Green's plan includes:

- Put an extra \$25 billion into rail and bus services and \$500 million per year into making cycling and walking safe and accessible and connecting people from the cities to outer suburbs and regions with ease
- Transform transport networks with thousands of new electric buses making them cleaner and greener
- Build high-speed rail from Melbourne to Brisbane, giving people an alternative way to travel domestically

- **Invest in getting freight onto rail and cleaning up our truck fleets so we can further reduce air pollution**

A government that is serious about building the 21st-century infrastructure for our cities and regions must put money on the table for public transport projects to give us the accessible, affordable, clean and connected cities and regions that people deserve. Investment of this scale is needed to restore Commonwealth infrastructure spending, and get critical public transport projects underway. As the elected representative for Maranoa, I will continually collaborate with WQAC, the community and relevant organisations to ensure that Western Queensland is receiving and maintaining the transport infrastructure that they deserve.

#### PRIORITY 5: CONNECTING TO YOU

Currently, Australia's Internet is lagging behind the rest of the world. It's slower than almost every country in Europe, North America, and many in South-East Asia. The pandemic has shown just what critical infrastructure the internet is, allowing us to work and connect around the world safely from home. Everyone should be able to access the NBN including our rural and remote communities. It's time we finish the NBN as it was originally designed, to support our future economy, jobs, education, health and way of life. Poor internet connections are costing Australian businesses 100 hours a year, per worker in lost time. It's time we finish the NBN as it was originally designed, to support our future economy, jobs, education, health and way of life.

The Greens will:

- Fix the NBN by 2025 with the best fibre and 5G wireless technologies to secure our economy, jobs, education and health
- Ensure the NBN remains publicly owned
- Provide free broadband internet access for one million households with a healthcare card, including carers, students, low-income families and the unemployed.

Developing this initiative further by ending the corruption of grants being co-opted by politicians for pork barrelling by ensuring infrastructure grant funds are provided through transparent, accountable funding programs. and furthermore ensuring the community is at the centre of project planning by requiring major projects over \$100 million to have an independent evaluation and community consultation. More policy specifics will be released in the weeks ahead and will be available here:

<https://greens.org.au/platform/services#nbn>

Once again, thank you so much for this opportunity.

#### **ELLISA PARKER**

(she/her pronouns)

Maranoa Candidate 2022 Federal Election

Queensland Greens

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**sustainability | democracy | non-violence | social justice**

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