

Nathan McDonald, UAP Maranoa candidate response

Email received 5 May 2022

Thank you for your email and providing me with an opportunity to respond to the Projects, Policy & Program Priorities for Western Queensland as outlined in the WQAC - 2022 Federal Election Platform.

I have to firstly emphasise how impressed I am with the work you have done in collaboration to seek to improve the lives of those living in Western Queensland. The five themes and related projects have been carefully considered and I appreciate the genuine intent to proactively and practically address the issues being faced by people in Western Queensland. I compliment the Western Queensland Alliance of Councils (WQAC) Leadership Group on the work produced.

In response to the projects, policy and program priorities outlined, overall I am supportive of these. They simply make sense and I see the direct benefit that these would bring to the people of Western Queensland. The one specific area that I would like to research and consider further is your desire to "Establish a dedicated funding Program to support Councils develop Net Zero Strategies". I understand and appreciate that the major parties support net zero emissions by 2050. I am not convinced that this will not impact Australia's, and importantly in your case Western Queensland's, world class industries and our current standard of living. That aside, at this point in time and with my current understanding of the projects, policy and program priorities identified, I hope they can be achieved and that if elected, I can play an active role in helping procure appropriate funding to advance them.

The United Australia Party is committed to investment in key infrastructure in our regions. We believe 25% of the wealth generated from regions in Australia must be returned to that region, so the wealth can be reinvested in that region that generated it. Western Queensland generates significant revenue for the Australian Government through its agricultural, resource and tourism industries in particular. Together with the UAP team, I am committed in seeing 25% reinvested into Western Queensland, enabling projects, policy and program priorities by WQAC to be funded. The UAP also has a policy of bring \$1 trillion of Australian superannuation home, to be invested in Australian companies and projects. This equates to \$6.5 billion per electorate on average. Obviously, there would be direct benefit of this policy in terms of funds being invested into specific Western Queensland projects, that would help advance initiatives you have highlighted.

I am not in a position to commit to selected priorities and/or certain amounts of funding before the election. However, as I stated earlier, I am supportive of how you are seeking to improve the lives of Western Queenslanders. I would be excited to advance your plans where possible. My style of operation is to under promise and over deliver. My hope is that if I am elected, WQAC finds that I effectively deliver for my electorate of Maranoa, which of course includes a significant portion of the area that WQAC is responsible for at a local government level.

Kind regards

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