

# Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

## Queensland Election Results

February 2015

The Queensland state election was held on 31 January 2015. At the election, Queensland Labor, led by the Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, received a 10.8 per cent state-wide swing.

In the 89 seat Parliament, Queensland Labor has secured 44 seats. The Liberal National Party (LNP) has secured 42 seats. The Katter United Party has won 2 seats with the remaining seat held by Independent Peter Wellington. Mr Wellington has guaranteed opposition leader Anastacia Palaszczuk confidence and supply. Accordingly Labor is expected to be called upon to form minority government.

### *Ferny Grove*

Labor candidate Mark Furner has been declared the winner in the north-west Brisbane seat of Ferny Grove. The Palmer United candidate was subsequently found to be an undischarged bankrupt; this raised questions about the declarations validity. After indicating an initial intention to refer the matter to the Court of Disputed Returns the Queensland Electoral Commission advised on 13 February 2015 that it would not do so. It remains open to another party to seek to refer the matter.

### **Background**

The LNP Government went to the 2015 state election seeking a second term in office following their victory at the 2012 election, where they received a state-wide swing of 8.1 per cent and took a large majority of seats in the Assembly.

Following the 2012 Queensland state election, the LNP Government had three of its MPs defect to minor parties and two quit the Parliament.

Queensland Labor candidates were elected in three successive by-elections: Jackie Trad in South Brisbane, Yvette D'Ath in Redcliffe and Dr Anthony Lynham in Stafford. All three MPs were appointed to the Shadow Cabinet.

Ahead of the 2015 state election, the LNP held 73 seats in the Assembly. The Labor Opposition held 9 seats. The crossbench consisted of three representatives of Katter's Australian Party and four independents.

The Hawker Britton Pre-Election Brief for the 2015 Queensland state election is available [here](#).

### **Labor's Key Election Policies**

#### *Budget*

Labor has proposed almost \$1.6 billion of new expenses and capital commitments and \$1.7 billion in savings and reprioritisations. During the campaign, Labor outlined five key fiscal principles:

- maintenance of a General Government sector Net Operating Surplus over the economic cycle;
- reduction in the General Government sector debt by \$5.4 billion over six years, with the aim of a \$12 billion reduction in General Government debt over 10 years;
- strict management of borrowing in the General Government sector for new infrastructure, so that it can be serviced within a General Government Net Operating Surplus target;
- maintenance of General Government sector own-source revenue at or below 8.5 per cent of nominal gross state product, on average, over the forward estimates in order to ensure competitive taxation; and
- targeting full funding of long-term liabilities such as superannuation and WorkCover in accordance with actuarial advice.

Labor has also committed to a Treasury Review of the Queensland's finances, including medium-term fiscal projections and strategy, to be published in the first budget of the term.

#### *Revenue and Asset Sales*

The LNP based its re-election campaign on a \$37 billion asset privatisation program. The LNP had planned to use the revenue from the program to reduce Queensland's debt by \$25 billion to \$55 billion, with the remaining \$8.6 billion to be used for infrastructure projects.

Queensland Labor announced it would not privatise state assets, and instead would:

- introduce additional efficiencies to lower costs by aggregating the five state-owned energy companies (Ergon, Energex and Powerlink, and generators CS Energy and Stanwel) into two companies, saving \$150 million;
- establish a debt reduction trust and quarantining two-thirds of the returns from the income-earning assets proposed for sale in a special trust to pay down debt;
- target the repayment of all General Government net debt over the next decade; and
- defer any future increases in the payroll tax threshold with a total saving of \$255 million.

Labor predicts these policies will result in a \$5.4 billion reduction in state debt over six years and \$12 billion over 10 years and ensure that state assets are not privatised.

#### *Business and employment*

- a \$40 million Business Development Fund to assist new industries (policy [here](#));
- a new productivity commission to encourage growth and reduce cost of living, such as electricity prices (policy [here](#));
- a new independent statutory body, Jobs Queensland, which would be responsible for workforce planning by economic catchment and sector (policy [here](#)); and
- reinstatement of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to help jobseekers find employment (policy [here](#)).

Queensland Labor's jobs plan, *Working Queensland*, is available [here](#).

#### *Health and Hospitals*

- \$110 million to recruit an extra 400 nurses over four years (policy [here](#));

- \$1.4 million in extra funding to the Heart Foundation Walking Groups program and the web-based 10,000 Steps program promoted by Central Queensland University (CQU) in Rockhampton (media release [here](#));
- legislation capping nurse-to-patient ratios (policy [here](#)); and
- expansion of services for young people with serious mental health issues, including the establishment of a Tier 3 facility with an integrated school in south-east Queensland (policy [here](#)).

#### *Energy and Renewables*

- construction of a 40-megawatt solar power station; and
- establishment of an inquiry into how Queensland can achieve a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030.

Labor's solar energy policy is available [here](#).

#### *Environment and Planning*

- \$100 million to improve water quality on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR);
- prohibition on off-shore dumping of dredge spoil within the GBR's World Heritage Area
- protection of the Caley Valley Wetlands through the prohibition of dumping of Abbot Point spoil on the site proposed by the LNP;
- a new requirement that mining projects prove their viability;
- withdrawal of funding for the shared rail line linking the Galilee Basin coal projects to the Abbot Point terminal; and
- implementation of the LNP's planned amendments to the Environment Act to extend the life of the Mount Isa copper smelter.

Labor's policy on the Great Barrier Reef is available [here](#).

Labor's environment policy is available [here](#).

#### *Infrastructure and Regional Development*

- establishment of Building Queensland, an independent body which will:
  - prepare cost-benefit analyses of any projects over \$100 million, which are released prior to construction; and
  - assist departments in developing business cases for any infrastructure project with an estimated cost of \$50 million or above, or any project for which the net present value of financial commitments entered into by the State exceeds \$50 million (policy [here](#)).
- \$100 million for a stadium for Townsville (policy [here](#)); and
- replacement of the Royalties for Regions program from 2016–17 to 2018–19 with four infrastructure initiatives, including:
  - doubling funding for the Roads and Transport Alliance, from \$30m to \$60 million (total \$120m over 2 years), with \$40 a year of funding quarantined for road projects outside of urban South East Queensland;
  - \$35 million a year for a Regional Capital Fund for infrastructure projects in provincial cities and surrounding rural areas (\$70m over 2 years);
  - \$27.5 million a year for a Royalties for Resource Producing Communities Fund for infrastructure projects in mining communities; and
  - \$7.5 million a year for a Remote Communities Infrastructure Fund for infrastructure projects in remote communities.



Queensland Labor's election policy on Regional Queensland, *Building Our Regions*, is available [here](#).

### Education

- \$6 million over three years to develop new classifications for excellent teachers (policy [here](#))
- \$34 million for TAFE Queensland to employ up to 100 new full-time equivalent roles (policy [here](#));
- repeal the QTAMA legislation and complete a review of all of Queensland's training assets, including their usage (policy [here](#));
- end the policy of 'full contestability' in the VET sector (policy [here](#)); and
- \$139 million over the forward estimates to fund an additional 2500 state school teachers (policy [here](#)).

### Results

Queensland Labor picked up 33 additional seats at the general election, bringing its total to 44 seats. The state-wide swing was 11.4 per cent to Labor, with some seats recording swings to Labor of over 20 per cent.

Sitting Premier the Hon Campbell Newman MP was defeated in his Brisbane seat of Ashgrove by Labor candidate and former MP the Hon Kate Jones.

Results are available on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website [here](#).

The following 35 seats changed from the Liberal National Party or an Independent to Labor.

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>ALP Member</b>
Algester	LNP	Leanne Enoch
Ashgrove	LNP	Kate Jones
Barron River	LNP	Craig Crawford
Brisbane Central	LNP	Grace Grace
Bulimba	LNP	Di Farmer
Bundaberg	LNP	Leanne Donaldson
Cairns	LNP	Rob Pyne
Capalaba	LNP	Don Brown
Cook	LNP	Billy Gordon
Ferny Grove	LNP	Mark Furner
Gladstone	IND	Glenn Butcher
Greenslopes	LNP	Joseph Kelly
Ipswich	LNP	Jennifer Howard
Ipswich West	LNP	Jim Madden
Kallangur	LNP	Shane King
Keppel	LNP	Brittany Lauga
Logan	LNP	Linus Power
Lytton	LNP	Joan Pease



Maryborough	IND	Bruce Saunders
Mirani	LNP	Jimmy Pearce
Morayfield	LNP	Mark Ryan
Mount Coot-tha	LNP	Steven Miles
Mundingburra	LNP	Coralee O'Rourke
Murrumba	LNP	Chris Whiting
Nudgee	LNP	Leanne Linard
Pine Rivers	LNP	Nikki Boyd
Pumicestone	LNP	Rick Williams
Sandgate	LNP	Stirling Hinchliffe
Springwood	LNP	Mick De Brenni
Stretton	LNP	Duncan Pegg
Sunnybank	LNP	Peter Russo
Thuringowa	LNP	Aaron Harper
Townsville	LNP	Scott Stewart
Waterford	LNP	Shannon Fentiman
Yeerongpilly	IND	Mark Bailey

The following seat changed from an Independent to the Liberal National Party.

<b>Electorate</b>	<b>Previous</b>	<b>LNP Member</b>
Gaven	IND	Sid Cramp