



26 October 2020

Michael Murray
General Manager – Operations
Cotton Australia
Unit 3/6 Rutledge St
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

By email: michaelm@cotton.org.au

Michael,
Dear Mr Murray,

Re: 2020 Election

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 July 2020 regarding Cotton Australia's key issues in the 2020 Queensland State Election.

The LNP values the Cotton industry's contribution to Queensland through job and wealth creation in our rural communities.

The industry's continued role as an economic mainstay in communities in the Darling Downs, the South-West and Central Highlands regions, despite the impact of drought is a reflection of the resilience of the sector.

The LNP has an ambitious plan to stimulate the economy, create a decade of secure jobs, and lead Queensland out of this recession.

Our vision is to make Queensland the economic powerhouse of Australia once again, the best place to get a job, get ahead and raise a family.

The LNP's plan will get Queensland working again.

Our plan for a stronger economy and secure jobs is based on four foundations:

- investing for growth
- unleashing Queensland industry
- supercharging the regions
- securing our children's future

Our plan includes a no-new-tax guarantee to give all businesses the confidence to invest and create jobs.

An LNP Government will also build the drought-busting New Bradfield Scheme, back new dam projects across Queensland, and cut the price of water for SunWater irrigators by almost 20%, ensuring it is affordable for farmers to use.

The LNP fully supports Queensland farmers and we are determined to unlock the state's agricultural potential, to supercharge our regions, and create jobs.

An LNP Government will secure Queensland's food and fibre first, backing local farmers and supporting local jobs.

We will do that by outlining industry specific initiatives that:

- Back Queensland farmers
- Create more regional jobs
- Get agriculture working again

The LNP will set an ambitious goal of doubling the value of agricultural production by 2035, from \$18 billion to \$30 billion, and then doubling it again to \$60 billion by 2045.

Central to the LNP's plan to grow agriculture in Queensland is a commitment to reduce the costs that impact the profitability, productivity, and ultimately jobs throughout the entire agricultural supply chain.

The LNP understands water prices are already too high and without affordable water Queensland businesses and farms will not be able to employ Queenslanders.

That is why the LNP has announced its plan to slash nearly 20 per cent off the price of water for Queensland's 5,000 Sunwater irrigator customers – something that will directly assist many of your members.

The LNP also has a plan to tackle electricity affordability and pricing to reduce the impact on farmers.

The LNP has committed to reducing electricity costs for manufacturers and the agricultural supply chain, like cotton gins by around 20%. This will secure existing and grow new jobs through a \$493 million community service obligation (CSO) be provided to the Government Owned Corporation Energy Queensland.

The LNP has bold and ambitious plans to 'develop the North' and agricultural production in Queensland through our support for the New Bradfield, Nullinga Dam, Urannah Dam, raising the Burdekin Falls Dam and building Big Rock Weir.

The LNP is also committed to review of the state's vegetation management framework to ensure the laws support the development of economically significant and sustainable agricultural production.

Attached is considered response to each request, indicating our position and level of support (*see attached*).

There are some initiatives which a future LNP Government is interested in receiving more detailed proposals from the industry.

Yours sincerely



Tony Perrett MP
Shadow Minister for Agricultural Industry Development,
and Fisheries and Forestry
Member for Gympie

Cotton Australia Election Requests	LNP response
Water	
<p>Rural Water pricing- wants to see those irrigation schemes paying above local costs reflective prices corrected to the QCA calculated "lower bound" price.</p>	<p>The LNP will implement the QCA recommendation to reduce water costs by nearly 20% by transitioning to a regulated asset based (RAB) approach for financing asset renewals.</p>
<p>Water metering and measurement – calls on LNP to support DNRME to develop the systems to better manage water and compliance in a transparent manner. Need to ensure new metering measures not too financially onerous.</p>	<p>The LNP will work with industry to resolve Government transparency. We believe that the Queensland public service should be the best in Australia.</p>
<p>Drought support – water charges- calling on the LNP to support key recommendations of the Drought Review that proposed a grant programme that assists all growers adopting practices to better support climate change.</p>	<p>LNP will work with industry in government to consider these drought support recommendations.</p>
<p>Dam Safety Costs - Cotton Australia calls on the LNP to definitively exclude Dam Safety Upgrade costs from irrigation water charges past 30, 2021 by formally declaring that these costs should be recognised as a whole-of-community cost and paid for out of Consolidated Revenue.</p>	<p>An LNP Government is committed to reducing water costs and making it more affordable for farmers.</p>
Electricity	
<p>Irrigation tariffs – want to work with he LNP to design and implement tariffs to replace 62, 65 and 66, ensuring they are affordable and reflect requirements of agriculture.</p>	<p>An LNP Government will introduce retail competition for regional electricity customers which will lead to at least a \$300 annual saving for the average household and likely much more for business customers.</p> <p>The LNP will make further policy announcements regarding affordable agricultural tariffs before the election.</p>
<p>Cotton Ginning tariffs - Seasonality - calls on the LNP to commit to introducing new tariffs (or rules) that will allow cotton ginners access to tariffs that will ensure energy supplied through the network is affordable.</p>	<p>An elected LNP Government will work with industry to consider new tariffs or rules to provide cotton ginners with affordable options.</p> <p>To address the broader impact of electricity costs on manufacturers and the agricultural supply chain, the LNP has committed to reducing electricity costs for these businesses like cotton gins by around 20%.</p> <p>This will secure existing and grow new jobs through a \$493 million community service obligation (CSO) be provided to the Government Owned Corporation Energy Queensland.</p>
Training	
<p>Smart Ag Queensland – calls on the LNP to commit to the \$15 million SmartAg Queensland program based of the successful AgSkilled NSW programme.</p>	<p>An elected LNP Government will work with industry to restore the capacity and quality of training for</p>

	<p>our agricultural sector. We look forward to working with industry groups like Cotton Australia to achieve this.</p>
<p>Emerald Agricultural College Facility – keen to work with the LNP to develop and support sustainable use for this facility that reflects the needs of the region and is established in a sustainable manner.</p>	<p>An LNP Government will partner with CQ University to establish a Central Queensland TAFE Centre of Excellence through a \$50 million investment to build a stronger economy and boost skills opportunities for local jobs.</p> <p>The investment would create a new one-stop-shop for post-school education and training in central Queensland. The facility will drive jobs in agriculture, construction, and manufacturing.</p> <p>An LNP Government will partner with industry groups, like Cotton Australia, to re-open the Emerald campus to restore the capacity and quality of training for our agricultural sector.</p> <p>An LNP Government will adopt lessons from successful examples from other states, such as NSW, where the government has been able to sustain and grow their state-run agricultural training colleges.</p> <p>The LNP Government will continue to work with industry to ensure the next generation of farmers have access to the skills and training they need.</p>
<p>Crop/insurance protection products</p>	
<p>Stamp Duty - calls on the LNP to commit to removing stamp duty on crop protection/income protection insurance policies immediately on entering government.</p>	<p>If elected the LNP has announced no new or increased taxes in its first term of government.</p> <p>The current Labor Agriculture Minister has not released the KPMG report it commissioned into the removing stamp duty on agricultural insurance products.</p> <p>If elected, the LNP will have full access to the report and will brief Cotton Australia on the findings.</p>
<p>Land Tax – Foreign Investor Surcharge</p>	
<p>Remove the 4% land tax – calls on the LNP to immediately overturn the ALP’s foreign ownership surcharge and remove all land tax from land used for primary production.</p>	<p>The LNP has announced no new or increased taxes in its first term of government.</p>
<p>Northern Development</p>	
<p>Work with Cotton Australia to grow industry in NQ – calls on LNP to foster a positive attitude in working with proponents to gain necessary approvals to allow development to occur.</p>	<p>The LNP has bold and ambitious plans to develop agricultural production in Queensland with its support for the New Bradfield Scheme, Nullinga Dam and Urannah Dam.</p>

The LNP has also committed to review of the state's vegetation management framework to ensure the support and development of economically significant and sustainable agricultural production.

The LNP is committed to delivering fair and balanced laws that deliver the following principles:

- Provide certainty of process and encourage investment
- Restore sensible property rights for landholders
- Support regional economic development, jobs, and food security
- Acknowledges and accommodates Queensland's diverse and varied biodiverse ecological regions
- Considers the impacts of drought, bushfires and flooding