

2024 QUEENSLAND ELECTION SCORECARD

In this Queensland (Qld) Election Scorecard, ANTAR together with our Affiliate organisation ANTaR Qld has provided a guide to the policies of the Qld Labor Party, the Qld Greens, and the Qld Liberal National Party (LNP) in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs.

In September 2024, ANTAR and ANTaR Qld wrote to the three major political parties contesting the 2024 Qld Election seeking their policies and election commitments relating to:

1. Closing the Gap
2. Incarceration & Youth Justice
3. Cultural Heritage Protection
4. Treaty & Truth-Telling

The parties provided responses to our request for their positions on the issues outlined above and the responses can be read in full on [ANTAR's website](#). We have analysed these responses and also drawn on the publicly available policy commitments to inform our analysis and determine our assessment.

ANTAR/ANTaR Qld recommends close consideration of the policies of the parties contesting the 2024 Qld Election – and particularly the policies related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. We believe that justice, rights, and respect for the First Nations people of Qld must be a top priority for the next Government.

**DON'T
FORGET
TO** 

CLOSING THE GAP

The state obligations under the Qld Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2023 as well as the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including:

- Culturally appropriate and accessible healthcare;
- Secure and affordable housing for First Nations communities;
- Culturally inclusive and equitable opportunities in education at all levels;
- Economic empowerment and growth in employment opportunities (including in remote communities).

INCARCERATION & YOUTH JUSTICE

Addressing First Nations hyper-incarceration rates and youth justice, including raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility and ensuring that all criminal justice policies adhere to the Qld Human Rights Act.

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

Ensuring the adequate protection of First Nations cultural heritage and Country through consultation with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities that is structured around the principle and practice of free, prior and informed consent, as well as strengthening of the Cultural Heritage Acts.




TREATY & TRUTH-TELLING

Progressing the Qld Path to Treaty Act 2023 through resourcing the Qld Treaty Institute and the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry in an ongoing way for the necessary timeframe.



CLOSING THE GAP

ANTAR/ANTaR Qld asked the parties what their policies would be, if elected, regarding the state obligations under the Qld Closing the Gap Implementation Plan 2023 as well as the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including:

- Culturally appropriate and accessible healthcare;
- Secure and affordable housing for First Nations communities;
- Culturally inclusive and equitable opportunities in education at all levels;
- Economic empowerment and growth in employment opportunities (including in remote communities).

		
<p>The Qld Labor party is seeking to reframe its relationship with First Nations Peoples and is seeking enduring, long-lasting relationships between government and First Nations communities.</p> <p>The Miles Government has announced a \$61 million investment under the 'Homes for Queenslanders' plan with an aim to close the gap on housing for First Nations Peoples. The plan, co-designed by First Nations Peoples, includes a \$10m commitment to increase First Nations home-ownership rates.</p> <p>The Qld Government has also proposed the Palm Island Home Ownership Scheme in conjunction with the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, to boost the home ownership rate for First Nations communities. The proposed scheme will include 300 social homes owned by the council that could be made available for residents to buy over the next ten years through a 99-year home ownership lease.</p> <p>Pathways for First Nations Peoples is Labor's plan to create jobs and training opportunities for Qld's First Nations jobseekers. They have committed \$2.8m for the first round of grants which is currently available for First Nations designed and led projects that support local training and workforce needs. \$2.4m has been awarded to the Indigenous-designed</p>	<p>The Qld Greens are committed to achieving the objectives set out by Queensland's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan and are ready to hold the Qld Government accountable.</p> <p>The party has plans to build 100,000 public homes over six years, dedicated to servicing the needs of the most vulnerable people, including First Nations Peoples, with a focus on First-Nations-controlled services to provide appropriate cultural support in this sector.</p> <p>In relation to education and early learning, the Qld Greens are committed to narrowing the inequalities in access to learning between First Nations and non-Indigenous people. The Greens plan to develop First Nations early childhood services, and boost the supply of kindergarten teachers in remote and First Nations services.</p> <p>The Qld Greens are committed to expanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-controlled health services to lower the barriers to healthcare faced by First Nations Peoples. This includes expansions to alternative health care access, including at-home checks, checks in schools, and community centres.</p> <p>The Qld Greens believe that the Qld Government should play a greater role in organising an economy for the benefit of all people. This includes redistributing wealth through the taxation of profits</p>	<p>The Qld LNP has stated that they will deliver better outcomes for First Nations Peoples in Qld by lifting standards for education, health and housing in an effort to 'Close the Gap'.</p> <p>If elected, the Qld LNP has stated they will boost home ownership options, deliver more clean water infrastructure in First Nations communities, fund programs to boost health and education standards, prioritise improved education outcomes and increased engagement in training and employment.</p> <p>The Qld LNP would support programs and projects that have measurable deliverables aligning with Closing the Gap outcomes.</p> <p>The Qld LNP would also commit to listening to and engaging with Indigenous Queenslanders to deliver the services needed to ensure better and sustainable outcomes for all Queenslanders.</p>

CLOSING THE GAP

		
<p>and led projects, which support employment pathways that respond to local workforce needs, including \$587,100 for three projects in Far North Queensland.</p> <p>To assist with healthcare for First Nations people the Miles Labor Government has allocated \$324.7m in the 2024/25 budget over four years to provide culturally appropriate and accessible healthcare.</p> <p>The Equality and Excellence Strategy is the Labor Government's commitment to valuing the knowledge and voices of First Nations people in learning and teaching. Labor has also committed to making Kindergarten and TAFE free.</p>	<p>and investing it in new opportunities. They also support a proactive approach to funding for First Nations Peoples by targeting investment and grant funding to stimulate economic opportunities and investing in access to education, traineeship and business mentorship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p>	
 <p>THUMBS UP</p>	 <p>THUMBS UP</p>	 <p>MIXED BAG Lack of detail</p>





INCARCERATION & YOUTH JUSTICE

ANTAR/ANTaR Qld asked the parties what their policies would be, if elected, to address First Nations hyper-incarceration rates and youth justice, including raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility and ensuring that all criminal justice policies adhere to the Qld Human Rights Act.

		
<p>With respect to youth justice, while recognising that First Nations peoples are over represented in the justice system, Qld Labor has announced construction of two new youth “therapeutic” detention centres as well as more funding to the West Moreton Youth Detention Centre. The funding comes from the \$1.6bn investment Qld Labor has committed to the Queensland Health Better Care Plan which supports young people experiencing substance and alcohol misuse through a variety of initiatives and programs.</p> <p>Labor’s policy plans also involve creating new ‘On Country’ programs to provide cultural-based rehabilitation for First Nations children under the supervision of First Nations elders to reduce ongoing offending.</p> <p>Labor has created the Better Justice Together strategy, which seeks to be the first step towards a justice system that is culturally-safe and free from discrimination.</p> <p>Qld Labor has made no public statement on its position to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility or changes made to the Youth Justice Act that removed the internationally-enshrined ‘detention as a last resort’ human rights principle.</p>	<p>The Qld Greens believe that it is essential to address the over-representation of First Nations children in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>In this light, the Greens aim to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 years and ensure stronger commitments to diverting young people away from the criminal justice system. The Greens are also promising to adopt child protection measures to address the hyper-incarceration of Indigenous Queenslanders outlined in their Indigenous Queenslanders Policy, along with a stronger alignment with the UN Convention of Rights of the Child.</p> <p>If elected, the Qld Greens have pledged to restore the principle of detention as a last resort and thus prevent the detention of children and young people in police watch houses.</p> <p>The Qld Greens would also proactively invest in services and opportunities that promote prosocial behaviours through ongoing resourcing of community-controlled organisations and bodies that provide culturally-appropriate programs and support.</p>	<p>The Qld LNP has announced an ‘Adult Crime, Adult Time’ policy which will reform legislation to give judges the ability to provide children with the same sentences as adults. This sits alongside their commitment to new ‘Making Queensland Safer Laws’ which will hold children accountable for their full criminal history during sentencing, and have their record carry over into adulthood.</p> <p>In addition, the Qld LNP will uphold the change made by the current Government to the Youth Justice Act that removes the internationally-enshrined human rights principle of ‘detention as a last resort’ for children. They will also prioritise the rights of victims ahead of offenders’ rights in legislation, and have children sentenced under the Criminal Code.</p> <p>The Qld LNP has made a \$50m election pledge to a regional reset program which involves sending children deemed ‘at risk’ of committing a criminal offence to ‘reset camps’.</p> <p>The Qld LNP has also announced they will spend \$50m on a global hunt for the best ‘new idea’ for early intervention models in youth crime as part of a total \$100m pledge to their “Gold Standard Early Intervention” policy.</p> <p>The party has made no public statement on its position to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.</p>
 <p>MIXED BAG More policy on youth justice alternatives over detention facilities as well as raising the age is required.</p>	 <p>THUMBS UP</p>	 <p>THUMBS DOWN</p>







CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION

ANTAR/ANTaR Qld asked the parties what their policies would be, if elected, to ensure the adequate protection of First Nations cultural heritage and Country through consultation with Traditional Owners and First Nations communities that is structured around the principle and practice of free, prior and informed consent, as well as strengthening of the Cultural Heritage Acts.

		
<p>If re-elected, Qld Labor has stated that First Nations Peoples’ rights should be central to conservation and cultural heritage management. First Nations knowledge of land and sea country management will be acknowledged in the development of conservation policies and joint management arrangements and will be protected through a statutory cultural register and maintenance of native title rights.</p> <p>Qld Labor has stated they will not endorse major water infrastructure projects until completion of a detailed business plan, including thorough consideration of cultural heritage impacts.</p> <p>Qld Labor has also committed to growing self-determining opportunities to allow Traditional Owners to remain on Country, through land management, grazing, eco-tourism, carbon projects and other economic ventures. Negotiations and agreement making between the state and Traditional Owners will be underpinned by free, prior and informed consent.</p>	<p>The Qld Greens recognise the risk of development, mining and infrastructure harming cultural heritage which has particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures.</p> <p>The Qld Greens will protect First Nations cultural heritage by ensuring First Nations people are supported with funding and other resources to manage increased consultation about cultural heritage protection.</p> <p>The Qld Greens have committed to establishing a First Nations advisory group that will lead development of a new assessment framework.</p> <p>Cultural heritage mapping will be incorporated into planning processes for state and local governments so that risks to cultural heritage are identified and addressed in the early stages of project planning.</p> <p>The Qld Greens believe the Cultural Heritage Acts, which provide effective recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, must cover intangible cultural heritage.</p>	<p>In September 2024, Shadow Minister for Environment Sam O’Connor announced the LNP’s More Rangers, Better Neighbours Policy, stating they would deliver 150 extra rangers in the next four years for the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and Indigenous Land and Sea Rangers.</p> <p>The commitment includes establishing a Specialist Fire Management Ranger Team with 30 dedicated rangers focused on bushfires in national parks.</p>
 <p>MIXED BAG Stronger commitments to protect Country are required</p>	 <p>THUMBS UP</p>	 <p>MIXED BAG A good start but more comprehensive action needed</p>

TREATY & TRUTH-TELLING

ANTAR/ANTaR Qld asked the parties what their policies would be, if elected, to progress the Qld Path to Treaty Act 2023 through resourcing the Qld Treaty Institute and the Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry in an ongoing way for the necessary timeframe.

		
<p>The Qld Treaty Minister Leeanne Enoch has announced Labor remains committed to the Path to Treaty legislation. Under the Path to Treaty Act 2023, Queensland's historic Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry began on 1 July 2024 to run for an initial period of three years.</p> <p>A re-elected Qld Labor Government has pledged to formalise a process to negotiate treaties with First Nations Peoples within the next term of government, in part or whole. Qld Labor will establish and authorise a Treaty Working Group within this term of government to consult with First Nations Peoples and advise the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Attorney-General on a process to achieve treaties with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within Queensland.</p>	<p>The Qld Greens support Treaty, Truth and Voice and the key role these processes will play in substantive justice for First Nations people and the wider transformative change that is required. The Greens will support whatever provision of resources to the Treaty Institute that is necessary for developing treaty-making frameworks, bodies, processes and capacities of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.</p> <p>The Qld Greens firmly believe that addressing the historical injustices faced by First Nations Peoples through the process of truth-telling is long overdue. They also share First Nations concerns that a three-year limit may be an insufficient timeframe for the Truth-Telling and Healing Inquiry and will advocate for a government commitment to extend the Inquiry in response to any recommendation from the Inquiry to do so.</p>	<p>Qld LNP leader, David Crisafulli, has committed to dismantling the First Nations Treaty Institute and Truth-telling and Healing Inquiry should his party win government.</p> <p>Crisafulli has rescinded his party's support for the state's treaty process in the wake of the Voice to Parliament's rejection where Queensland had the highest 'No' vote of any state or territory across the country.</p> <p>The Qld LNP government has stated they will work with Indigenous communities to find a better way forward to improve the lives of First Nations people in Queensland.</p>
 THUMBS UP	 THUMBS UP	 THUMBS DOWN

ABOUT ANTAR

ANTAR is a national advocacy organisation working for Justice, Rights and Respect for Australia's First Nations Peoples. We do this primarily through campaigns, advocacy and public education.

ANTAR campaigns for the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, including the establishment of a Makarrata Commission to oversee national agreement-making and truth-telling processes, as well as for the self-determination of First Nations Peoples. We actively support state and territory-based voice, treaty and truth-telling.

ANTAR engages in national advocacy across various policy and social justice issues affecting First Nations communities, including cultural heritage protection; justice reinvestment, over-incarceration and raising the age of criminal responsibility; child safety, development and wellbeing; anti-racism campaigns, native title and land rights, and closing the life equality gap.

ANTAR is a foundational member of both the Close the Gap Campaign and Change the Record Campaign Steering Committee, and an organisational and executive committee member of Just Reinvest NSW. ANTAR has been working with First Nations communities, organisations and leaders on rights and reconciliation issues since 1997. ANTAR is a non-government, not-for-profit, independently funded and community-based organisation.

ANTaR Qld's mission is to generate in Australia a moral and legal recognition of, and respect for, the distinctive status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as First Peoples and agree to work for the protection of First Peoples' rights, including their relationships to land, the right to self-determination, and the maintenance and growth of their unique cultures.



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ANTAR is proud to acknowledge and pay our respects to First Nations Peoples as the traditional owners of the lands on which we work across the continent.