



Agriculture

1. Will you or your party undertake to investigate the cost of rural insurance and ensure the price is sustainable for the future of agriculture?
2. Would you or your party consider removing stamp duty from all rural insurance products?

A (both Q1 & 2): I take the cost of rural insurance very seriously and will always explore ways to address the issue.

That is why DAF engaged consultants, KPMG, to conduct an analysis of abolishing stamp duty. This report is publicly available on the DAF website. The report reached ambiguous conclusions, including that removal of insurance duty is unlikely to make much difference in the uptake of agricultural insurance.

In contrast David Crisafulli and the LNP have outlined no vision other than to cut projects jobs and essential services. When last in government they cut 26 per cent of biosecurity staff.

Bundaberg Hospital and Health Services

3. Will the new Bundaberg hospital be a level 5 hospital, and if so, can you please state what additional level five services will be available in the new hospital that make it different from the services currently available at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

Please note, this question does not pertain to features such as the helipad, car park, additional beds, operating theatres, or the number of floors etc - the question is specifically about the specialist services and treatments available to patients, so they will no longer be required to travel to Brisbane.

A: The Miles Labor Government is investing \$1.2 billion to build a bigger and better Bundaberg Hospital. There will be more beds, more operating rooms, new medical and surgical wards and more health care services; such as: emergency medicine, general medicine and general surgery services, respiratory medicine, gastroenterology, orthopaedics, and urology. As the project progresses, further consideration to additional specialist services will be considered.

The term 'Level 5 hospital' has been used as a shorthand way of saying that a facility provides predominantly Level 5 services (as defined by the Clinical Services Capability Framework (CSCF)).

The Bundaberg Hospital already delivers some CSCF level 5 services including acute and community mental health services, acute pain services, and medical oncology



services which will transfer to the New Hospital.

4. If the new Bundaberg hospital will not be a level 5 hospital, can you please state why not?

A: The new Bundaberg hospital will provide level 5 services as defined by the Clinical Services Capability Framework (CSCF).

5. Could the candidates please clarify their position on whether or not there will be a fully staffed 24/7 Cardiac Catheter Lab at the new hospital when it opens in 2027?

A: As the project progresses, further consideration to additional specialist services will be considered.

6. It has been declared the new hospital will be open in 2027 with the need for 500 new staff mostly university trained. Yet there appears to have been no relevant up take of students. What have you done or will do to ensure staff levels will be met?

A: To make sure Queenslanders continue to receive worldclass care, we need to invest in our healthcare workforce. That's why we're building a strong talent pipeline to find, retain, and train the best people.

It's why we're delivering 14 free TAFE health courses including the Diploma of Nursing to ensure we are growing our next generation of health workers right here in Queensland. Last year, we accepted 6,300 Diploma of Nursing students alone through the Free TAFE program.

We've also hired more than 1,700 health heroes through our Workforce Attraction Incentive Scheme that began in July 2023 and offers health workers up to \$70,000 to move to Queensland to live and work.

We also launched our \$1.7 billion Workforce Strategy in June this year that outlines more than 30 initiatives to address workforce shortages including supporting the current workforce, building new talent pipelines, and implementing new ways of delivering healthcare.

David Crisafulli and the LNP can't be trusted with Queenslanders' healthcare. When you look at their record it's no surprise – in Wide Bay they sacked 345 frontline health workers.



And we know that they will do it again because David Crisafulli has not said how he will fund his promises. That means cuts, there's no other way. Will he cut the new Bundy hospital? Or the new Fraser Coast Satellite Hospital? Which of our health heroes will he sack?

The people of our community deserve top notch healthcare, and you can only trust Labor to deliver that.

7. Much has been said about the incompetence and failure of the CEO and Board of the Bundaberg Hospital. If you form Government or are part of a balance of power, will you sack the CEO and Board?

A: I want to assure the community that we take any issues related to healthcare and the management of our hospitals and health facilities very seriously. The Miles Labor Government are committed to patient care and safety, and won't hesitate to take necessary action to keep Queenslanders safe. Wide Bay is the first Hospital and Health Service across Queensland to achieve zero-long waits on their surgical waiting lists. This is a phenomenal effort and means Wide Bay is treating every single elective surgery patient within clinically recommended timeframes.

8. What is your position on the current local Women's Health Services, in particular how it is currently funded?

A: What we know is that we need to continue to do more for local women here in Bundaberg and across Queensland. We need to make sure that we're investing in women's health care and that's why we've put forward our *Women and Girl's Health Strategy 2032* to ensure that we are delivering more here in Bundaberg and right across the State.

9. What is your position on workplace health and safety for our frontline services workers and nurses to patient ratios?

A: What we know as the Queensland Labor Party, we implemented nurse to patient ratios. In fact, it was the LNP who voted against safe ratios in our hospitals. If they vote against safe ratios then you know that they will also cut frontline health workers. It is absolutely paramount that all of our frontline workers, whether in health care or emergency services, always know that they are safer in the workplace and provided with all of the resources that they need. What we can't afford are the cuts from the LNP to frontline service workers.



10. What is your position on Voluntary Assisted Dying, and will you work to keep the current legislation in place should you be elected?

A: I was proud to stand in the Parliament and support Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) and I'll continue to fight for it. What I don't want to see is the LNP get into Government and overturn the right that people have to end their life on their terms surrounded by family and friends at the end of terminal illness. It is absolutely apparent that the LNP Candidate has refused to give a position on VAD. My position is clear, I will always support it.

11. When Steven Miles was Health Minister, he was on record stating that the Termination of Pregnancy Bill, which he introduced, would not result in more late-term abortions. However, Queensland Health's own Perinatal Data indicates that in 2022, of the 321 late-term terminations, a disturbing 50 babies were born alive and left to die without assistance or pain relief. How, as a local candidate do you propose to address this situation?

A: Queensland Health have a policy in place to ensure that any live births that do survive a termination of pregnancy are cared for in a humane way. What we must respect always is the right of a woman to choose her own healthcare. I will never, ever support what the LNP Candidate supports, which is throwing women in jail for accessing their own reproductive health rights.

12. What is your position on the current termination of pregnancy legislation?

A: I support a woman and girls' right to choose their own health care, and that women and girls do have the capacity to make a decision about termination of pregnancy. What I will not ever stand for is what the LNP are trying to hide from, which is 14 years in jail for access to termination of pregnancy. The LNP need to come clean. When they make abortion a crime, will it then be considered an adult crime? Will we see 14-year-old girls accessing reproductive health care in the state be thrown in jail for 14 years. I'll continue to stand up for women to have the right to choose their own healthcare. The LNP Candidate must come out of the dark, must put forward their position, and stop trying to hide from Queenslanders.

Business

13. What measures are in place to help increase the number of local apprentices and tradies in the Wide Bay Region, and what support is available to SMEs to encourage them to employ more apprentices and trainees?

A: We have invested in Free TAFE for all Queenslanders. This has seen over 100,000 Queenslanders access Free TAFE and over 3,000 local Bundaberg residents access Free TAFE. What we are also doing to support our tradies and apprentices is that our first year apprentices can access a \$1,000 fund to buy their first set of tools. This is a great



initiative. We are making sure that we are getting young people into the workforce, giving them the skills they need to ensure that we can continue our local economy into the future.

14. At a recent Wide Bay industry event there was discussion regarding the lack of a specialised Trade Training College/Institution for school students wanting to pursue and excel in a VET career pathway, (senior education blended with VET training and industry work placement). Is this a focus for you and your government?

A: Absolutely. Of course, here in Bundaberg we have an outstanding TAFE that we're investing more and more into. Not only have we completed a new manufacturing hub, but we've also built a new horticulture and agriculture hub as well. I'm also very proud of is our Education Precinct which we have established so that our schools can connect with one another and make sure that they're working together for the best purposes of our students. We've also seen the new \$20 million Industrial Design and Technology building being completed at Kepnock State High School. This will revolutionise the school when it comes to skills in training and development.

15. Insurance is a significant issue for many businesses in this area. Flood insurance has been impossible to get for those that were impacted in 2013, but since COVID, it has become worse, with businesses unable to find anybody to quote, and if they do, the quote is often unaffordable. What plans do you or your party have for bringing down the cost of insurance for business?

A: This is an especially important question, as we head into disaster season. Queensland is home to the most natural disasters in the country and here in Bundaberg we know just how much damage they can do. We don't control the weather, nor the cost of insurance premiums.

We know higher building replacement costs, international re-insurance charges and climate change continue to influence insurance risk and what Queenslanders pay for insurance.

The Premier has been clear that he is always open to exploring initiatives with local Mayors that have real potential to increase community resilience and lower insurance premiums.

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority now has a \$49 million flood risk management program introduced after the 2021-2024 wet season - and available to 39 Local Government Areas, including Bundaberg.

Since 2018, the QRA has managed almost \$12 billion in reconstruction, recovery and resilience, State-wide.



16. Given inflation on all things, if elected would you support a review of thresholds such as land tax and payroll tax thresholds?

A: Anytime that we can have a look at how we can make sure that payroll tax can be eased on businesses, or any form of tax that can be eased, is always something we should do. Of course, we need to live within our times, and we need to ensure that we have a strong statewide budget. But the greatest thing that we can do is to make sure that we are supporting businesses from the grassroots level, that we are supporting our local economy by making sure that we're building the services we need, the schools we need the roads and the brand-new Bundaberg Hospital as well.

Cost of Living

17. What are you or your parties plans to bring down cost of living, without raising inflation?

A: The Miles Labor Government has already addressed a large suite of cost-of-living measures which is making a real difference to households in Bundaberg and across Queensland. We've made sure that we're addressing pressures on the household budget by taking 20% off rego for the next 12 months. What's more is we have announced that we will establish an energy price guarantee that will ensure the average Queenslanders power bills will always be cheaper than the rest of main land Queensland. We have committed to a second energy retailer that will bring competition into the market and bring power bills down by at least six percent.

18. What is your position with regards to governments offering more free money (rego discounts and power bill credits)?

19. If you believe in more free money, how will more government handouts help, or will it just kick the can down the road until after the election?

A (both Q 18 & 19): The Miles Labor Government have told large multinational mining companies that Queensland coal belongs to Queenslanders and we thoroughly believe that multinational mining companies should be getting taxed so that the profits that would go to overseas shareholders are going back into the pockets of everyday Queenslanders. Unlike the LNP, we're not going to roll over for big multinational coal companies. We're going to make sure that we support Queenslanders first and billionaires second.

20. Will you and your party investigate sustainable funding methods for local Government, and will you support the mandating of the 'Guideline on equity and fairness in rating Queensland local governments'?

A: I know how important the guidelines are when we talk to our local farmers. I was there when I spoke with the former local government Minister Steven Miles and I've also raised this issue with Minister Meaghan Scanlon. I'm happy to continue to raise this on behalf



of our regional farmers and make sure that our communication between the State Government and our farmers always exists, and that we continue to work for good positive solutions together.

21. What will you as the local member do to address the sometimes up to 1000% insurance premium increases for the 4670 postcode? Will this include reviewing the flood mapping insurers use and ensuring the no greater than 4-6% increases compared to the CPI's Index, as recommended by ABS Data for Residential Properties?

A: The Bundaberg East Levee Project is intended to increase protection of the Bundaberg community and businesses during a Burnett River flood event and enhance the economic prosperity of the region. The modelling shows an estimated 1565 properties will be better protected in Bundaberg South and Bundaberg East from Burnett River flooding during a 1% AEP flood event.

Crime

22. Crime seems to be a daily headline in the news. Regardless of if crime rates are going up or down, what actions will you take locally, to help people feel safer in their homes?

A: The people of Bundaberg can be rest assured that Labor will always support our frontline. Our heroes are there in blood, and they're responding and early intervention. We have good wrap-around services through our community programs, and the work of our local police liaison officers is a big reason why youth crime has dropped by more than 30% in the first half of this year alone. Unlike the LNP, we won't sack 110 senior Police or cut resources from the police. We will always make sure to invest in the frontline. That's why we've committed to a \$20 million upgrade of the Bundaberg Police Station. What's disappointing is that the LNP Candidate called is a 'distraction'. I don't believe our police are a distraction. I believe that what our police need, they should get and it's only under Labor that they will get the resources they need to keep our community safe.

23. Youth crime has been a topic of concern for many residents in our region. What strategies will you be advocating for to address this problem specifically in the Bundaberg region if elected?

A: We have a researched, costed and funded community safety plan. This plan is already working. We have seen youth crime drop in the Wide Bay region by more than 30%. We have our early intervention programs which are making sure that we're targeting young people who are at risk of entering into the youth criminal justice system and we are diverting them through programs where they are learning skills for future trades. Our Police Liaison Officers are providing the support that our young people need to know that a police officer is someone they can trust in the community. We need to ensure that we invest in early intervention. We have introduced the breach of bail law



that actually works. We have seen a drop in youth crime and general crime across Queensland because of the measure we have put in place. We have a community safety plan, the LNP have a four-word slogan with no real plan to address the rates of crime.

24. In 2023 Drug laws in Queensland were relaxed for anyone caught carrying small quantities of illicit substances like heroin, cocaine or ice, with users to be given three chances before facing a criminal charge. Also, the implementation of pill testing at music festivals has been installed. Where do you personally sit on the reality of weakened drug laws across the state?

A: The suggestion that drug laws in Queensland were weakened is an absolute fast. We are providing stronger measures to intervene and have people diverting themselves away from drug use. What we know is that the more you lock people up for small quantities of possession, the more they will continue to use. The best way to divert people away from drug use is to put them through intervention programs and it is the best to ensure that are addressing what are serious issues. It's also a very serious issue that we ensure that pill testing continues. I would rather see a young person forfeit pills and drugs at the front gate of a festival than use a drug that kills them. It's not weak to protect lives.

25. Will all candidates, but in particular the Labor and LNP candidates, commit to allowing whistleblowers to speak out without fear of retribution?

A: Absolutely.

Future Developments

26. Can each candidate please state their position on the coal mining lease application (MDL3040) proposed for North Bundaberg and whether you would support a moratorium (or similar vehicle) to prevent that mining tenement ever being considered for coal mining in the future?

A: I'm very proud to be the first ever Queensland State Member of Parliament to take his community's voice to the minister and have an MDL blocked in this state. I will continue to fight fox resources alongside my community tooth and nail every single day of the week if we have to. But what we know is that the Queensland Government has said that MDL3040 does not stack up in the public interest, should not proceed, and it's time that Fox Resources showed respect to our community and left our community alone.

27. If elected, will you support amendments to legislation to ensure our food bowl is protected from all future gas and coal developments?



A: We have legislation right now that says that any gas and coal project must always stack up environmentally, must always stack up socially and economically. Overwhelmingly, the best source of a strong local economy is to back in the natural resources that are our fruit and vegetables, our food and our fibre. That is the most important for our region.

28. As we move closer to the election, could you please outline the policy of your party concerning the East Flood Levee Wall?
29. As a candidate, are for or against the Proposed East Flood Levee Wall?

A (both Q 28 & 29): What we know is that the Federal Government recommended the Bundaberg East Flood Levee as the number one flood mitigation project in the community and ensures that it protects people throughout East, South and the CBD but does not impact negatively on Bundaberg North. That is vitally important to me. I would never support a project that would help one side of the river and negatively impact the other. What we know is that the LNP continue to run and dodge from this question - they are playing pure politics. I support evacuation and mitigation, and that's why I'm getting on with the job. That's why we're delivering a project that's important for our local community and we'll continue to work and what evacuation routes are available into the future.

30. If in the event that the East Flood Levee wall goes ahead, what sort of compensation on a monetary level, will be put in place to those on the wrong side of the wall on Quay Street East?
31. The mental health of those who own businesses and homes on Quay Street East is suffering badly, how long do we have to wait and suffer, until we know whether the east flood levee wall will go ahead or not?

A (both Q30 & 31): When we announced the Bundaberg flood levee in partnership with the federal government, we announced that there would be a compensation package if needed through voluntary buybacks. The levee will not increase the flood impact on those properties not protected by the levee. I will work with the Department to ensure that businesses will not be negatively impacted, or if they are, that there is a voluntary buy in compensation package to support these businesses. What's important is that all local businesses on that side of the levee will be provided with the information early and be a part of the consultation of the design phase.

Power and Energy

32. What is your position on the supply of reliable power to Queenslanders?



A: Only the Miles Labor Government has a plan for energy to be cheaper and more reliable. We are going to be putting forward plan that will see an energy price guarantee. A guarantee that we will always have cheaper bills than the rest of main land Australia and that our second energy retailer will drive down power by 6%. What's more is that for our local businesses we have announced that we will increase the small customer tariff from 100 megawatt hours per annum to 160 megawatt hours per annum. This is absolutely vital for many businesses around our region. Farmers will now be on a more affordable tariff and that means that they can invest more money back into their local business, back into their local workers and strengthen our local economy.

33. If there is a continued emphasis on solar, how can you be sure that the network can handle the increase of feed in?

A: What's important about Queensland is that we own our public energy assets which means that we will continue to always invest in our grid, to always invest in the infrastructure that we need and the development that ensures reliable power into the grid.

34. How can you sure that this is the most cost-effective long-term solution to the ever-increasing base load needs for Queenslanders?

A: What we've put forward as a Labor Government is that we believe that pumped hydro can provide energy generation for the future of our state. That's why we're committed to two pumped hydro projects that combined will deliver 10 gigawatts per annum and make sure that we are providing the electricity generation and distribution through our public ground energy assets well into the future.

Other

35. We live in one of the many deadly hotspots for incidents and accidents for the Bruce Highway. What will you be advocating for in relation to the improvement of our roads if elected?

A: We've seen strong investment throughout the wider region when it comes to the Bruce Highway and other important state-controlled roads. What we want to see is a commitment from the Federal government to do the same. Too often Queensland seems to miss out at a federal level. I want to make sure that the federal government is putting forward initiatives to work with us as a state government and provide the funding for our Bruce Highway.

36. Queensland is a proud state that welcomes free speech and robust conversation, particularly with those in positions of power. As the local member, will you commit to having an open dialogue with the Bundaberg community, particularly on social media, or will you look to ban locals who disagree with you or post alternative views, from



discussions?

A: What's important is that social media should be social. It should be polite, it should be considerate, and it should be respectful. I will block people if they engage in rude behaviour with other followers on my page. If they use abusive language towards others on that page, absolutely I will block them. It is important that people know that they can talk to me in person. I'm always active in our community. I'm always available for people to engage and have conversations with me. And of course, always through my Electorate Office, meetings can be booked and arranged. But what I'm surer about is that anyone who engages in my page does so in a respectful way.

37. What can you do to support community clubs assisting the less fortunate in our communities?

A: What we have is a range of different options around funding our local community organisations, whether it's our Gambling Community Benefit fund, Active Industry Project Fund, FairPlay Vouchers, Active Women and Girls Fund or SwimStart programs, and other Community Club funding programs found on the [Queensland Grants Portal](#). We have seen millions of dollars spent on local community organisations

38. How do you ensure your policies are the "right" ideas rather than just popular ideas that voters might like to hear and feel?

A: What I make sure to do is I put forward my values to the community and I believe it's important that we have political leaders in this state who put forward the values they believe in as good, strong local policies. People know who I am, they know where I stand on issues, and I will always make sure that I put forward my values to the community and I will make sure that my values are always aligned with the community.

39. At elections we hear candidates spruik what they know. Are you willing to confront voters by telling them a community or industry problem you don't know the answer to and outline the process you use to work with people to solve problems you don't have the answers to?

A: If you don't have the answer, you need to go and find the answer for your constituents - that's what is always so important. The best part about representing a community is that there's many different views and questions. It's always important to engage with the community, listen to the community and work hard with the community.

40. What are your views on diversity, equity and inclusion?

A: The best part about living in our local community is that we are a community that embraces everyone. That's what makes Bundaberg such a unique community compared to other places right across Queensland and Australia. We come together, we roll up our sleeves, and we make sure that we put forward the interests of the people and ensure