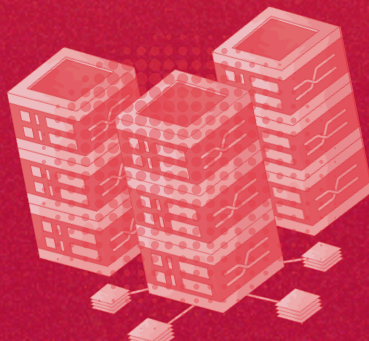
QUEENSLAND LABOR OPPOSITION

DATA CENTRE PRINCIPLES

For community consultation





Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways from across Queensland.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This artwork by The Hon Leeanne Enoch MP is called “The Power of Many” from her “Connections” series. It represents the paths we take to reach our goals and the many important and often powerful connections we make with each other along the way.

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DATA CENTRE PRINCIPLES

SUMMARY

Queensland is entering a major period of data centre growth.

This growth is being driven by cloud computing, digital services and artificial intelligence (AI). These facilities are arriving at a scale we have never seen before. The proposed $31.9 billion Western Downs Digital Park near Dalby would be the largest in Australia.

The decisions we make now will shape Queensland for decades. Yet the Crisafulli LNP Government has no plan. Councils are being left to work it out alone, and communities are being left in the dark.

That is why Queenslanders need clear principles for data centres.

They guide the rules and standards for projects to be approved.

They tell investors what Queensland expects and give communities confidence. Without a plan, data centres could push up your power bills.

They could put pressure on the water our towns and farmers rely on.

They could be built in the wrong places, like good farmland or close to homes. And local communities might not get a proper say.

Fixing these problems later is harder and costs more. Clear principles up front mean Queensland gets the jobs and investment without paying the price.

Queensland Labor welcomes data centre investment that is good for Queensland, but it must be done right. Our eight draft principles build on the national expectations and respond to what is happening here.

QUEENSLAND LABOR'S PRINCIPLES

Data centres are the buildings that power the internet, cloud services and artificial intelligence (AI). They can bring investment and jobs to Queensland, but they use enormous amounts of electricity, water and land.

The Queensland Labor Opposition welcomes data centre investment that is good for Queensland, but it must be done right.

1. Queenslanders' power bills come first.

Data centres must not push up electricity prices for households and small businesses. They should pay the full cost of their grid connections and network upgrades.

2. Bring new energy, don't take ours.

Data centres should add new energy generation and storage to match what they use, backed by firming, so they add to Queensland's power supply rather than drain it. They should use energy efficiently and help keep the grid stable at peak times.

3. Drinking and irrigation water is for people and agriculture.

Data centres should use recycled or non-drinking water first, use water efficiently, never compete with towns or farmers for drinking or irrigation water, plan for drought, and pay their share of water infrastructure.

4. Plan ahead and put them in the right place.

Queensland needs a clear planning pathway for data centres, with locations mapped in advance that have the power, water, transport and internet connections to support them. Data centres should stay off prime agricultural land and away from homes and schools, and manage noise, heat, backup generators and the combined impact of several projects in one area.

QUEENSLAND LABOR'S PRINCIPLES

5. Communities and councils get a real say.

People should know early where data centres are planned and have a genuine say. Local councils should keep a meaningful role in decisions, and Traditional Owners must be engaged. Fast-tracking must never mean cutting people out.

6. Local benefits that last.

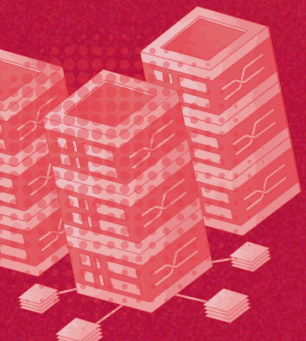
Every major data centre should leave its community better off, through a binding and transparent community benefit agreement, work for local businesses, and paying for the local roads and services it relies on.

7. Good jobs, Queensland skills, secure data.

Data centres should create secure, well-paid jobs and apprenticeships for Queenslanders, give local researchers and start-ups access to computing power, buy from Queensland suppliers, and protect Queenslanders' data.

8. Open and accountable.

Data centres should publicly report their energy use, water use and emissions. Decisions should be transparent, with reasons published, and impacts on land, infrastructure and communities monitored over time. Only genuine projects should take up grid and approval queues.



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