



**MEDIA RELEASE: December 8, 2017**

## **Majority Palaszczuk Labor government needs to act swiftly to protect Queensland's nature**

Peak environment group the Queensland Conservation Council (QCC) has offered its congratulations to Annastacia Palaszczuk on her re-election as Premier of Queensland, and on the return of her Labor government to power in Queensland.

Labor has been formally returned to government, this time with a clear Parliamentary majority and a clear mandate on a number of key conservation issues.

“We congratulate Premier Palaszczuk on the re-election of her government, and her own return to the top political office in the state”, said Dr Tim Seelig head of the Queensland Conservation Council.

“Labor has the strongest suite of environmental policy commitments we have ever seen. And it now has a majority in Parliament to deliver.

“We support Labor’s stated intent to build on its record of environmental protection over this term, and its commitment to a Queensland that ‘protects our wildlife habitat, our climate and our beautiful reef’.

“QCC very much welcomed Labor’s publicly announced election commitments on issues such as land clearing, and its written commitments provided to us during the 2017 state election.

“Land clearing is an issue that requires urgent action, given the risk of so-called ‘panic clearing’ (accelerated bushland destruction) by landholders, ahead of Parliament being convened and the opportunity to re-introduce stronger legislation.

“We have urged the Premier to take all available immediate measures to prevent panic clearing across Queensland, and to use this opportunity to remind land holders that Labor has committed to a \$500 million program of land restoration to support retention of woodlands.

“This program complements the action we expect in the first one hundred days of government to pass stronger land clearing laws and policy measures to reduce clearing rates, protect native wildlife and woodland habitats, and avoid run-off into the Great Barrier Reef.”

Labor also identified a series of priorities including addressing Queensland’s land clearing crisis, the need for ongoing expansion of renewable energy and stronger measures to address climate change, support for regional and statewide biodiversity and landscape/rivers protection, and reviewing and enhancing Queensland’s environmental regulation regimes.

QCC has also indicated that it will continue to advocate on matters it believes the government can do much better on, including the future of fossil fuels extraction and use in Queensland, and transformation of the state’s economy to a far more sustainable, far less environmentally harmful one.

### **For further comment contact:**

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