



2021 REVIEW



WELCOME

2021 was an extraordinary year for Queensland. The state closed its borders and took an aggressive approach to the suppression of Covid-19. The result has been that Queensland has avoided the harshest impacts of the pandemic which locked down New South Wales and Victoria for months and which ravaged public health in the Asia Pacific and the world.

Yet from this position of isolation, our state's political leaders – Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Brisbane Mayor Adrian Schrinner and the federal Minister for Sport ventured to Tokyo where Brisbane and South East Queensland were named host for the 2032 Olympics, the most global and interconnected event in the world.

This juxtaposition of the domestic and the international; the inward and outward looking has always been at the heart of Queensland's civic debate and the theme ran through the research and events program the McKell Institute Queensland delivered in 2021.

In the year passed, McKell Queensland has expanded its membership to include corporations from a broader range of key economic sectors. We now bring together business and union leaders from tech, law, resources, energy, banking and finance, property, education, retail and health. We have provided those members with access to a diverse range of speakers including Opposition Leader **David Crisafulli**, Deputy Premier **Steven Miles**, Shadow Federal Treasurer **Jim Chalmers**, new Under Treasurer (Treasury Secretary) Leon Allen, Environment Minister **Meaghan Scanlon** and the perennially colourful voice from the North, Federal Member for Kennedy, **Bob Katter**.

Our boardroom discussions have offered members insight into a range of critical and influential views and informed the policy research the Institute has undertaken.

In addition to influential national policy work on the importance of infrastructure, the policy architecture suppressing wages in Australia, the importance of universal childcare and the costs of the delayed vaccine rollout, McKell Queensland has developed research projects including –

- **Bridging Queensland's Digital Divide**
- **Active transport** (not coal fired cars), and
- **How only more women can fix Parliament's "culture" problem**

As Executive Director, I have developed a new podcast, **Deep North**, which seeks to get to the critical thinkers and issues in Queensland's civic debate and I provide regular media commentary, arguing the case for good policy, particularly through a weekly spot on the ABC.

In November this year, I stepped down as Executive Director of McKell Queensland but I retain involvement in the Institute by joining existing Chair Eleanor Dickens as co-Chair. I believe very firmly in the need for a strong, expert, independent voice for good policy. The McKell Institute provides that and I believe that its growth will continue under our next Executive Director.

I thank the Board for its support in 2021 and extend best wishes to departing director Dr Linda Colley, who is taking up an important public sector role. I thank the corporate, union and NFP members for their contribution and engagement and our many supporters for backing our work and being part of a movement that consistently says good policy matters.

McKell Queensland 2021 Events



Deloitte.



THE MCKELL INSTITUTE QUEENSLAND ONLINE FORUM *with*
SENATOR PAT DODSON, DR JACKIE HUGGINS & MINISTER LEEANNE ENOCH
VOICE, TREATY, TRUTH: THE PATHWAY TO A BETTER AUSTRALIA



Tuesday 6 July
4.00pm-5.10pm



MAY

Deputy Under Treasurer, Leon Allen, joined us to discuss the state of Queensland's economy, as Treasury prepared the June budget. *HOSTED BY ORIGIN ENERGY*

Treasurer and Minister for Investment, Cameron Dick, joined us for a Pre-Budget Address Dinner. *HOSTED BY PLENARY*

JUNE

Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation, and Minister for Sport, Stirling Hinchcliffe, on Southeast Queensland's 2032 Olympic bid. *HOSTED BY ALLENS*

Treasurer and Minister for Investment, Cameron Dick, joined us to discuss the Queensland 2021/2022 budget. *HOSTED BY ENERGY QUEENSLAND*

Senator Pat Dodson, Dr Jackie Huggins and Minister Leeanne Enoch joined us for our public event, 'Voice, Treaty, Truth: The Pathway to a Better Australia'. *HOSTED BY DELOITTE*

JULY

Federal Member for Kennedy, Bob Katter, on how Australian super funds can invest in Northern Australia. *HOSTED BY NAPCO*

SEPTEMBER

Minister for the Environment and Youth Affairs, Meaghan Scanlon, joined us to discuss the Queensland Government's new climate action plan.

Shadow Treasurer Jim Chalmers addressed our members on the economy, before and after COVID. *HOSTED BY STOCKLAND*

Lech Blaine, on his Quarterly Essay 'Top Blokes: The Larrikin Myth, Class and Power' as part of our Digital Event Series.



OCTOBER

QLD Opposition Leader David Crisafulli on Queensland's pathway to prosperity. *HOSTED BY TELSTRA*

NOVEMBER

David Gonski AC discussed corporate social responsibility in modern Australia, as part of our Digital Event Series.

Paul Martyn, Director-General for the Department of Energy and Public Works, addressed our members to discuss energy and innovation in Queensland. *HOSTED BY AGINIC*

QLD's Deputy Premier, Steven Miles, spoke on how the Olympics may shape Brisbane as a city. *HOSTED BY ALLENS*

DECEMBER

Lance McCallum, Member for Bundamba and Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development and the 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030, and **Laura Gerber, Member for Currumbin and Shadow Assistant Minister for Justice and Youth**, addressed our members at our Christmas function to close out the year. *HOSTED BY THE STAR ENTERTAINMENT GROUP*



McKell Institute Research Highlights



Bridging Queensland's Digital Divide

The first major exploration of digital exclusion in Queensland. Developed as a policy input for the new Queensland Digital Economy Strategy. September 2021. **AUTHORS Felix Zerbib, Rachel Nolan, Edward Cavanough, Scott Brown (QCOSS)**



IN THE MEDIA SEPTEMBER 2021

The analysis from *Bridging Queensland's Digital Divide* was featured in *The Brisbane Times*.



Active Transport, Not Coal Fired Cars: Sustainable Transport Policy for Queensland

McKell Institute article, a modified version of a speech by Hon Rachel Nolan delivered to the 11th Queensland Transport Infrastructure Conference. May 2021.

Counting the Cost: Australia's Delayed Vaccine Roll-out Part 1

As major mistakes in the Federal Government's COVID-19 vaccine procurement strategy became clear, this report quantified the economic costs of that blunder. May 2021.

Counting the Cost: Australia's Delayed Vaccine Roll-out Part 2

Following on from the first Counting the Costs report, this piece quantified the economic impact of international border closures, which were maintained as Australia's vaccination rate lagged in the first half of 2021. April 2021.



IN THE MEDIA APRIL 2021

Both parts of the *Counting the Cost of Australia's Delayed Vaccine Roll-out* reports made national headlines.



Only more women will fix parliament's culture problem,

McKell Institute Ideas Forum, March 2021. **AUTHORS James Pawluk, Rachel Nolan**



IN THE MEDIA SEPTEMBER 2021

Analysis featured online in *The Guardian*.



Blue Harvest

Last year, this report uncovered cases of fruit pickers being paid \$3/hr, denied toilet breaks and abused for asking to receive pay. In November, the Australian Workers' Union won its year-long case – launched off the back of our report – to ensure that these workers receive a minimum wage. Our research makes real change.



IN THE MEDIA NOVEMBER 2021



Deep North with Rachel Nolan

McKell Institute Queensland podcast launched this year. Guests have included **Maia Schweizer, Lech Blaine, Cameron Costello** and **Shane Knuth MP**.



CONTACT THE MCKELL INSTITUTE QUEENSLAND

E. mckell@mckellinstitute.org.au

Twitter: [@McKellInstitute](https://twitter.com/McKellInstitute) Facebook: www.facebook.com/mckellinstitute Website: www.mckellinstitute.org.au

