

Written by Richard Musgrove for Penny Johnson, LNP Candidate for Cook, FNQ.
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Dear People of Cook

Many of you know me

Penny Johnson is my name, and I am a fierce advocate for people; for prosperity through innovation; and for plain hard work.

I have been on the land all my life, with the best slice of it here in the Cook electorate. This is the place I belong. I know and love the land, the people, and the weather — most of the time!

It is in Cook that I have run award-winning tourism businesses, including 4WD Cape York Adventures and a zoo; and an airline agency and accommodation-booking company. All of these have included Bart, my life and business partner; and all have created jobs throughout the community. We haven't been busy at all!

In case you haven't picked it up - I care about the people of Cook!

That care has been put to seriously good practical use as Deputy Mayor of Cook Shire, and Chair of the Cooktown Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. I love getting involved in events, as a volunteer; and have coordinated the award-winning Cooktown Bull Ride & Barrel Race and initiated lots of appeals for fires and floods.

Red tape? Let me at it! I successfully negotiated with State government to support local business during their recovery from the Cyclone Grace; and secured the first partial drought-declaration in Cook Shire for more than four decades. All negotiated with State Government. What better place to conquer red-tape hurdles than a seat in government representing you?!

A vote for me is a vote for local knowledge; for commitment; and a demonstrated knack for getting stuff done!

Secure Your Water with Penny!

Primary production depends on affordable and sustainable water. And the complex and biodiverse Cook environments must have enough water at the right times. We are so lucky to live up here, but we must find a balance between our water demands and environmental flows to sustain the place we love.

We can't expect sustainability if we ignore what is going on around us. Thinking through to the grandkids – what is our water legacy; what are we handing on to them?

Increasing demand and our changing climate will only make balancing water-use more challenging. So, water is everybody's business, because we all benefit, or lose if we screw it up. I

am committed to fighting for a balance between current and future prosperity – that is what water security means.

It's quite simple really – if we don't have a sensible and science-based approach to current water management, we won't be giving our grandchildren much of a future in which to live. I am committed to that fight.

What am I doing within the LNP already? We have committed \$10M (which the Federal government will match) for a proper study on Nullinga Dam feasibility. Sounds expensive, but we are asking a big question, and that is what it costs. And the payoff could be huge – a real contribution to water security. For generations! So \$10M now - hundreds of millions in increased production and prosperity well into the future.

What is involved? You know that you do your research before you commit to something big and expensive. Your money is hard-earned, and it hurts to throw it away. In the same way, we need to make sure the environmental impact and sustainability issues are well understood before the project goes ahead. This is the LNP way – a full and considered investigation, including all stakeholders; to make sure things don't go pear-shaped, at a huge public and environmental cost.

We are doing the same with the North Johnstone Diversion. Last week, Mario Quagliata (LNP Candidate for Hill) and I pledged a cool \$1M for a thorough investigation into the feasibility of the proposed diversion's water-delivery system. And we will take your views directly into the investigation and planning phase.

We will also tell you everything about these two projects, good and bad, so you can decide how you want them to play-out.

Water is our future – its security is our responsibility.

Mareeba Hospital - Great Days Ahead!

You have told me that hospital services are high on your list of priorities.

We will fight for a major development to greatly enhance Mareeba Hospital; funded through public-private partnerships. I am seeking \$500,000 for a study into the development of this new concept in health services. The vision is for an environmentally-responsible multi-purpose space, based in Mareeba and servicing Cape York – part hospital facility; part disaster-shelter; part events' hub.

Imagine a large square with a high roof, housing an amphitheatre-style open-space with fully-equipped specialist health-provider consultation rooms around the edges. The facility will feature solar panels; rainwater collection; the best in sustainable technology; and be built to cyclone standards by local tradesmen using local materials.

The Mareeba Hospital redevelopment will be a nationally-significant showcase for Cook industry, innovation, and medical services; creating jobs, and attracting high-quality medical specialists and further community investment.

Cape York Regional Plan Review - Let's Do This!

The Cape York Regional Plan (CYRP) is a living document and belongs to You, the People of Cook.

Many of you have asked for a review of the Plan – expressing concerns about the level of real community consultation during the regional planning process.

I am a long-time Cape York resident and rural-area advocate; and have always encouraged Cook residents to have a say in their region's development. I have also been affected by the same issues as you, and have the same cultural, social and environmental needs.

I will fight to make sure your voice is heard.

Priorities have changed since the Regional Plan was put together. We have moved from a great tourism-environment focus to balancing agricultural development, culture and environmental needs. Ways of collecting and analysing planning data have also improved, meaning we can now build a better and more inclusive plan to do the things we really need to do.

And we want the people of Cape York to have a real say in how the Plan develops from here. All of you – from the Straits south; not forgetting that the CYRP impacts employment and economic growth in Port Douglas, Mossman and Mareeba.

I will work with every sector of the community to ensure thorough consultation; particularly focused on community meetings, not committee meetings.

Getting heard won't be a bun-fight. All of you will be invited onboard the annual review process to make sure the Plan is culturally, socially and environmentally appropriate. And that the data gathered are based on solid science delivering solid results.

A vote for me is really a vote for you, because we can do this together.

Always fighting for Cook!

Regards

Penny Johnson

Authorised by L Folo 66-68 Bowen St Spring Hill