



A Job-Rich Green Economy

Andy Grodecki

Serving the Beaudesert Electorate for 20 years

Ph: 0411 361 044 Email: grodecki@gil.com.au

Speech for the Beaudesert Meet the Candidates Forum – 10 March 2009

Thank you and Good evening - As a former Secretary of the Beaudesert Chamber of Commerce, it is pleasing to see that you are still thriving and continuing to organise these important events.

My priority as your elected representative will be to work with you to create a new job-rich green economy.

First I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Mulunjali country, the traditional lands of the Yugambeh speaking peoples. I acknowledge their living culture.

I have been a self employed businessman for 11 years and I am now a public servant. I am the President of three community groups, on the Executive of two and active in a few others.

I have been serving the Beaudesert electorate for over twenty years. I have the longest and strongest record of all the candidates. I have lived all this time at Gleneagle where my wife and I raised two wonderful grown up sons.

Beaudesert is the best place in the world to live. Our great state is home to great wilderness areas, the Great Barrier Reef and the wonderful rainforests, woodlands and wildlife of the Scenic Rim.

But climate change threatens all of this. It threatens our relaxed lifestyle, our state's natural environment, our economy and jobs.

Climate change together with the global economic downturn and declining oil production presents us with some of the greatest policy challenges ever faced.

The old parties see these challenges as a reason do more of the same, to invest in the same industries and behaviours that got us to this point. They are committed to an economy based on digging things up and shipping them out. They are selling Queensland short.

The Greens see this as an opportunity to re-make our economy on the basis of sustainable industries and sustainable jobs. We will build a strong resilient economy so we can prosper even when the rest of the world stumbles.

We will deliver jobs for our state and we will protect our environment. We will live with the planet not off the planet.

Our plan will deliver thousands of green jobs by making Queensland a world leader in renewable energy. Global investment in renewables will be over 700 billion dollars a year by 2012. We want Queensland to be part of this investment.

We will build two 250MW base-load solar thermal power stations, at Townsville and the Darling Downs. Like those in Spain and California - We will do it sunny Queensland.

We will roll out free solar panels and rain water tanks for seniors.

For those with grid connected solar panels – You will be paid top rate for all of the renewable energy that you generate.

We will waive all State Government levies, fees and charges for companies generating green jobs that want to relocate to Queensland, perhaps Bromelton.

We will invest in a large-scale switch to energy-efficient homes under the self funding EASI-Q program. Employing over three thousand two hundred people by the fifth year, this program will be a boon for most of the tradies and their suppliers in the Beaudesert area.

It is critical, as we inject money into the economy, that we do it in a way that will leave us with the infrastructure we need for a new job-rich green economy. Barak Obama is doing it in America, they are doing it in Spain and California, and we must do it in sunny Queensland

As part of our green jobs strategy we will develop a world class public transport system for Queensland with more trains and buses. We will deliver an hourly rail passenger service from Bromelton to the city.

We will make public transport FREE for students, young people and seniors.

And after twenty years of neglect by Labor and Liberal Nationals, The Greens will establish a range of regular affordable public transport services for the Beaudesert area.

Ecotourism is another important growth area for local green jobs. I will continue to support the development of cultural and ecotourism activities around our stunning Scenic Rim. We will fund the creation of the Beaudesert to Bethania Rail Trail for use by cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

The Bromelton State development Area presents a major opportunity for developing sustainable industries and growing local green jobs. To do this the State Development Area needs to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable.

Key stakeholders from each of these interest areas must NOW be involved in setting standards for how the area is to be designed and operated based upon the best independent scientific advice. We need to stick to these standards and provide adequate funding and open processes for ensuring compliance with them.

These are just some of the ground rules for being able to claim world's best practice. There is more information on The Greens Table. The Greens will ensure that Bromelton will proceed as a world class Eco-Industrial City

The Greens are committed to delivering better health and community services.

Youth workers make a difference to young people lives, they help reduce anti-social behaviour and increase the likelihood that young people will stay in the area and access local jobs. We will fund Youth Workers for Jimboomba, Beaudesert and Boonah

We will invest in a Wellness Program to reduce the burden of preventable diseases that soak up 50% of the Queensland Health budget.

We will establish Community Mental Health Centres with 24 hour psychiatric nursing support at Boonah, Beaudesert, Jimboomba and Tamborine Mountain.

The Greens believe our farmers should be celebrated, supported and rewarded for the role they play in producing our food and managing our natural resources. We want to see farmers thriving in a climate-changed world by being paid for storing carbon, producing energy, for retaining significant vegetation and for practising clean, green farming methods. We will provide funding to assist in the adoption of more sustainable practice and ongoing funds for key supporting organisations.

It is good to see the other parties picking up Greens policies. We have seen LNP commit to protecting good quality agricultural land and adopt our gross feed-in tariff policy and Labor have announced our Green Army proposal. However this light green wash does not stack up.

Although we account for small proportion of the total global emissions, we are the largest per capita emitters of greenhouse gases in the world. We have a moral responsibility to our grandchildren and to those already affected by climate change to urgently and significantly reduce our emissions.

Only the Greens have a plan to do this. Lawrence Springborg is a climate change sceptic and both of the old parties refuse to take any serious action on climate change. This lack of action directly threatens the future of the Reef and our local national parks and puts Queensland jobs in danger. There are 50% more jobs in Barrier Reef tourism than in coal mining.

Similar to the Darling Downs, large open cut mines may become a reality for Beaudesert, Bromelton or the Kerry Valley. Exploration activity is underway and a preliminary report identifies 28.8 million tons of coal around the Nindoinbah to Veresdale Scrub area.

We need to call a halt to new coal mines in Queensland and divert state government resources into building a new green job-rich economy

BELL

While The Greens are focused on creating green jobs for Queenslanders, the old parties are not even talking the same language. They are committed to last century thinking such as doubling our coal exports. We cannot afford to take the slowly-slowly approach.

Most Australians, most Queenslanders recognise that we need to change our economy and the way we live. Smart business and community leaders around the world are working to increase the resilience of their communities by localising their economy as far as possible, by reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and building the capacity of their community to enable them to thrive in these difficult times.

It is time that we had someone who is experienced, who is committed to our community, who knows and understands the local issues, and is not locked into last century thinking. That is what you will get if you elect me as your first Greens MP. Thank you



Authorized by Andy Grodecki, 73 The Grange Road, Gleneagle, Qld 4285