

John Bjelke-Petersen calls for Zonal Taxation in Regional Queensland

Media release

Palmer United Party Queensland leader and candidate for Callide, John Bjelke-Petersen, has called for the reintroduction of zonal taxation in regional Queensland to stimulate economic growth in rural areas.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said Queenslanders living in regional and rural Queensland are suffering and are worse off under the LNP government than they were prior to the 2012 election.

"The Newman Government's rampant privatisation of essential services can only lead to inferior quality of services and higher costs to the community, particularly in regional and rural areas," Mr Bjelke-Petersen said.

"Queensland is a decentralised state and the government is not taking this into consideration.

"Many rural communities are losing out on the most basic, essential services and are being abandoned by a government that is more focussed on selling and leasing the state's major assets than looking after Queenslanders.

"Zonal taxation would provide an incentive to regional industries including farmers who form the back bone of Australia's economy - it also has the potential to attract high-quality doctors and teachers to the region.

"By providing tax breaks in areas that are disadvantaged or hurting, zonal taxation would stimulate population and economic growth in zonal areas, allowing these regions to decentralise and properly develop."

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said the Palmer United Party is committed to regional Queensland and this commitment was evident in the party's introduction of an Australia Fund in the federal Upper House.

"Regional Queensland needs proper representation and the Palmer United Party is committed to delivering a policy and a team that gives them the representation that they deserve."

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For further information please call John Bjelke-Petersen 0427 143 117