

# Support growing for asset sales to fund infrastructure

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Queensland voters back the privatisation of state-owned assets over other ways to fund infrastructure as long as the policy is rebranded and properly explained, new polling suggests.

The Palaszczuk Labor government and the Liberal National Party opposition have both vehemently rejected selling assets, after bruising defeats of the privatisation-pushing Bligh Labor government and Newman LNP administration.

But research commissioned by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia and the Infrastructure Association of Queensland shows the option could be back on the agenda ahead of the next state election, due next year.

The polling shows 62 per cent of Queenslanders believe infrastructure is co-ordinated poorly, and 63 per cent are unaware of “asset recycling,” defined by the research as the sale of state-owned assets to building productive infrastructure. Once asset recycling was explained, it had the strongest support of infrastructure funding options.

The research showed 19 per cent of Queenslanders strongly supported asset recycling, compared with 18 per cent who strongly supported special levies or charges. Only 4 per cent strongly backed borrowing money and increasing state debt — forecast to hit \$81bn by 2020-21 — and 3 per cent strongly supported increasing taxation.