



Parliamentary Budget Office

# The Liberals and Nationals Victoria election policy summaries

2022 general election

**FINAL**



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## Parliamentary Budget Office

We provide independent fiscal, economic and financial advice to all members of the Parliament of Victoria. Our objective is to inform policy development and public debate in parliament and the community.

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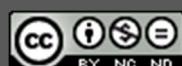
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# Policy summaries

The 112 aggregated groups of election policies – 94 election policies with budget impact and 18 policies with no budget impact – in this report are categorised into 7 Liberals and Nationals' policy bundles.

## Shelve the Suburban Rail Loop and invest in health

This policy area includes 1 policy.

**Immediately shelve the Suburban Rail Loop** would shelve the Suburban Rail Loop project and dissolve the Suburban Rail Loop Authority. No works contracts would be terminated.

## Fix the health crisis without raising taxes

This policy bundle includes 22 policies.

**Breast cancer nurses for McGrath Foundation** would provide \$6 million in funding over 4 years to the McGrath Foundation for an additional 14 nurses to better support Victorians.

**Drug treatment and rehabilitation** would provide:

- \$20 million towards shifting Victoria's approach to drug addiction to a health-based model, introducing a gold-standard in drug treatment with a supervised injectable opioid treatment trial at a major metropolitan hospital
- \$189.7 million to deliver at least 180 new alcohol or other drug (AOD) rehabilitation and withdrawal beds at 6 new all-age treatment centres in the Latrobe Valley, Mildura, Shepparton, Warrnambool, Frankston and Melbourne.

**Eastern Clinical Trials and Research Centre (ECTRC) and additional car parking at the Box Hill Hospital** would provide \$180 million towards the construction of a dedicated state-of-the-art Eastern Clinical Trials and Research Centre (ECTRC) at the Box Hill Hospital. The Australian Government and Monash University would provide \$72 million with the Victorian Government providing the remaining \$108 million.

**Empowering communities** would provide \$100 million over 4 years to deliver a community empowerment and wellbeing grants program to empower local communities to engage in mental health, wellbeing and alcohol or other drug intervention and prevention initiatives.

**Fixing Victoria's triple zero crisis** would provide an additional \$131.2 million to fix Triple-Zero, including:

- upgrading all IT systems including a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system and a fully functional new back-up system with sufficient capacity for surge demand
- facilitating multiple service training for 50% of all call taking and dispatch staff
- refocusing staff recruitment on frontline call taking and dispatch roles, not corporate positions
- delivering sustainable ongoing funding
- \$6.2 million additional funding for the Inspector-General for emergency management over 4 years.

**Free public transport for health professionals (including V/Line) and paying paramedic registration fees** would provide free public transport for more than 260,000 Victorian healthcare workers, including nurses, personal and aged care workers, trainee doctors and allied health workers, paramedics, and other hospital workers like patient transport orderlies and clerical staff.

This policy would also provide \$6.4 million to pay Victorian paramedics' annual professional registration fees for the next 4 years.

**Halve public dentist waiting times (expanded public dentistry and vouchers)** would improve dental services available for public patients by providing increased base funding for public sector dental services, and \$500 dental care vouchers for priority dental treatment for 32,000 Victorians.

**Halve elective surgery wait lists (\$360 million elective surgery waiting list action fund)** would provide \$360 million towards bringing down the elective surgery wait list. The Australian and Victorian governments would contribute funding consistent with other hospital funding initiatives.

**Health growth funding (\$750 million in addition to contingency funding)** would provide \$750 million for additional growth funding for Victoria's health system. The Australian and Victorian governments would contribute funding consistent with other hospital funding initiatives.

**Health workforce plan including making it free to study nursing and midwifery** would provide an additional \$595.5 million to support the delivery of:

- scholarships to fully offset the upfront HECS debts of nursing and midwifery students
- scholarships for existing nurses and midwives to upgrade their skills with postgraduate and specialist training fully paid
- retraining for nurses and midwives
- establishing a new visa subclass for international health workers
- establishing a Victorian Ministerial Health Workforce Council
- recruitment of nurses, midwives and other health workers.

**Hospital capital package** would provide \$10.2 billion for capital works to build new hospitals, upgrade or redevelop existing hospitals including \$20 million in 2022–23 for early works.

- The Australian Government would provide:
  - \$300 million toward the new Outer Eastern Hospital in Wantirna
  - \$300 million toward the new Albury Wodonga Hospital
  - \$250 million toward the new Mildura Hospital
  - \$200 million toward the new West Gippsland Hospital
  - \$113 million toward the new Rosebud Hospital
  - \$2,200 million additional funding for the package of hospital capital works.
- The New South Wales Government would provide \$300 million towards the new Albury Wodonga Hospital.

**Mental Health** would recognise 2,000 registered counsellors as mental health practitioners, thereby unlocking this important resource for deployment into Victorian schools. The policy will also work to implement all recommendations of the Mental Health Royal Commission.

**Mental health support for emergency services workers** would provide \$10 million over 4 years to treat the mental health crisis amongst emergency service workers.

**Mental health workforce strategy** would provide \$100.2 million to deliver a new mental health recruitment scheme, deliver a new mental health workforce scholarship, fund new psychiatrist trainee positions, train more psychology supervisors, and fund a new 'find a supervisor' matching service.

**Medical research boost** would provide \$84.1 million over the next 4 years in additional funding to better enable Victoria's medical research sector to expand their capabilities in research, commercialisation, and governance, while supporting workforce development and retention.

**Provide more affordable IVF and egg freezing** would provide \$21 million for a rebate of up to \$7,000 to Victorian women with medical conditions such as severe endometriosis and cancers that require chemotherapy, to ensure they can freeze their eggs without significant out-of-pocket expense. It would also provide \$165.5 million for:

- a rebate of up to \$2,000 to undertake an initial IVF procedure using private fertility clinics
- a rebate of up to \$2,000 to undertake a subsequent IVF procedure (if not successful with the initial procedure)
- rebates of up to \$500 for pre-IVF Fertility Testing
- up to 5 days of paid fertility treatment leave for nurses, teachers, and other Victorian public service workers.
- never place IVF on hold for Victorians wanting to have a family.

**Public health initiatives** would provide \$500,000 to crackdown on the sale of e-cigarettes by retailers, and launch an information campaign in schools to increase awareness of the health risks of using e-cigarettes.

**Relieving food insecurity for struggling Victorians** would provide \$13 million to support the food relief sector to help it provide greater assistance to Victorians.

**Social and Affordable Housing** would:

- seek to increase the supply of social and affordable housing in Victoria in partnership with private sector, institutional and community stakeholders
- maximise the potential of our underutilised land by identifying opportunities to develop social and affordable housing on land owned by the State and local governments and charitable groups
- create a Housing Taskforce, including and engaging with all key stakeholders, and utilise its recommendations to develop a comprehensive Social and Affordable Housing Strategy using the existing resources of the department

This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Stroke Foundation funding** would provide \$8.4 million to improve outcomes for Victorian stroke patients through community education and post-stroke support programs for survivors.

**Supporting community-owned hospitals** would provide \$20 million to keep Victoria's 5 remaining community owned hospitals in Euroa, Nagambie, Neerim, Heyfield and Cobden open. It would continue to provide them with the necessary operational funding they need to keep delivering services in their communities. It would also ensure they can access capital funding streams.

**Surgical robots** would provide \$66 million to significantly expand the use of surgical robot technology in Victoria's public hospitals.

### Put an end to Labor's spiralling debt and higher taxes

This policy bundle includes 7 policies.

**Complete and continue Labor's budgeted savings** would continue current savings and seek \$1 billion in savings in 2026-27.

**Drawdown of budgeted contingencies** would draw down all the output and asset contingencies 'Funding not allocated to specific purposes' in the Victorian Pre-Election Budget Update 2022, to fund other commitments.

**Eliminating waste through improved financial controls to reinvest in Victorian services and infrastructure** would extend the general government expenditure constraint (excluding health) to 2026-27.

**Put an end to Labor's Spiralling Debt and Taxes** would legislate a debt cap and guarantee that there would be no new taxes.

**Reprioritisations from Labor programs to Liberals and Nationals programs** would reprioritise funding from the Albion Station upgrade, Breakthrough Victoria Fund, Digital Future Now, Digital Victoria, Making it free to study nursing and midwifery, and Service Victoria - enhancing customer experience with more digital services for Victorians.

**Sewerage works lease** would offer a 50-year lease of Melbourne Water's sewerage treatment business, including 2 treatment plants and associated infrastructure, and transfer the proceeds of the asset lease to the Victorian Future Fund. It would also undertake a phased withdrawal of the total principal fund investment associated with the lease of Melbourne Water's assets and related earnings from the Victorian Future Fund.

**Victorian Future Fund drawdown** would withdraw \$2.0 billion from the Victorian Future Fund in 2024–25 and the remainder of the Victorian Future Fund at the end of the forward estimates.

### Rewarding hard working Victorian families

This policy bundle includes 8 policies.

**Cap local public transport fares to \$2 full fare \$1 concession fare** would reduce the daily cap on public transport modes for 4.5 years to \$2 for full fare paying passengers, and \$1 for concession fare paying passengers. This policy would not include V/Line services.

**Deliver 600 new EV charging stations** would provide \$50 million over 4 years to establish and operate a new community charging fund. The fund would leverage co-investment from business and community organisations, including councils, to deliver 600 new EV charging stations across Victoria.

**Electricity bill buster** would offset the supply charge on all Victorian household electricity bills from 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.

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**Fairer Water Bills** would direct the Essential Services Commission to freeze fixed water charges on household water bills for each Water Authority's next five-year regulatory period, undertake a new Fairer Water Bills program, under which Victorian water authorities will be directed to identify business cost savings that can be passed back to customers as reductions on household bills. This policy would also not place desalination plant orders unless Melbourne's water storages fall below the high secure zone of 60 per cent capacity.

**First home owner stamp duty relief and 150,000 new housing lots** would provide \$45.5 million to improve housing affordability by facilitating the release of 150,000 new housing lots, introducing planning and building reforms to make approvals faster, introducing new apprentice travel funds, and introducing a new Local Development Infrastructure Fund.

For 2023 only, this policy would also increase the eligibility thresholds for land transfer duty reductions for first home buyers. Properties with a dutiable value of \$1,000,000 or less would be exempt from land transfer duty.

**Halve V/Line fares** would enact a 4-and-a-half-year policy to halve fares on V/Line public transport, and make V/Line unscheduled train replacement bus services free of charge.

**Healthy school lunches** would provide \$300 million to deliver a 2-year pilot of a healthy lunches program in Victorian Government schools.

**New kids' activity vouchers** would commit \$200 million to fund the Keeping Kids Moving program. This program would provide school children with a \$200 voucher each year for the next 2 years, to be used to join a sporting club, take lessons, for seasonal registration fees, or be part of other active recreation groups by approved providers.

## Help small business

This policy bundle includes 9 policies.

**A better regulatory environment for Victoria's resources sector** would provide \$72 million over 4 years to support initiatives that provide a better regulatory environment for Victoria's resources industry, and support future opportunities in the resources industry sector.

**A more strategic approach to events and tourism** would provide \$296.7 million to support initiatives that aid the recovery and development of Victoria's tourism and events industry, including:

- a more strategic approach to the sector by government and regulatory improvements
- development of new strategies and targeted investment funds and packages
- a streamlined planning and development process so that new tourism projects can get off the ground quickly
- better security of tenure for tourism operators with crown leases by introducing longer leases for commercially and socially appropriate projects and requiring a decision on lease renewals to be made well in advance of the end of lease
- through work with private investors, encouragement and facilitation of appropriate eco-tourism developments.

**Cut seven Labor taxes** would, from 1 July:

- abolish the commercial passenger vehicle service levy

- unwind the increase in building practitioner fees implemented by the Victorian Building Authority on 2 May 2022
- provide a land transfer duty exemption for the transfer of residence properties between spouses or domestic partners
- reduce legal certificate fees to the level payable prior to March 2022
- raise the annual payroll tax-free threshold to \$1.6 million from 2027–28, with a phased increase from 2023-24, apply a linearly increasing payroll tax rate from zero to the existing rates for each dollar between \$1.6 million and \$2.0 million, and impose a maximum annual payroll tax liability deduction of \$700,000
- pause the zero and low-emission vehicle distance-based charge until 2027
- change the land tax exemption for charitable organisations from land used and occupied exclusively for charitable purposes to land used exclusively for charitable purposes.

From 1 January 2023, this policy would provide \$6.75 million over 5 years to protect charities against the impact of the landfill levy.

**Double Victoria's exports** would provide \$40 million towards initiatives set with a target to double Victoria's exports by 2035. These initiatives include:

- more export assistance to small and medium businesses
- reintroducing a comprehensive, outgoing Trade Mission Program
- encouraging greater participation in export markets by Victorian Migrant Communities
- establishing new trade and investment facilitation agreements with nations and sub-national jurisdictions
- reviewing the location of Global Victoria Offices
- encouraging local governments to better focus on trade opportunities for their businesses.

**Establish Connect Victoria** would provide \$301 million to establish a new, fully integrated Connect Victoria to provide better access to government services for Victorians.

**Help small business** would:

- provide \$140 million to deliver a new Small Business Victoria, a new Jobs, Skills and Growth Fund and a new Small Business Expert Mentoring Service
- provide \$30 million to deliver a Shopping Strip Revitalisation Program to support local small businesses, traders' associations and the Chamber of Commerce
- seek to freeze all existing local government business fees, charges and levies, and prevent the introduction of new ones for 4 years
- establish a special economic zone in East Werribee, where businesses established in this zone would pay zero payroll tax, and be able to apply directly to the Planning Minister for expedited planning approvals
- establish a new Small Business Victoria statutory authority, shifting existing small business resources of the department into the establishment of this body



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- establish a new, high level, Small Business Ministerial Advisory Group
- complete a review of Invest Victoria to ensure it is better focussed on its core responsibility to facilitate new investment into Victoria including into smaller businesses and into Regional Victoria.

**International students** would:

- focus on diversifying the source of student flows to a wider range of countries while supporting those countries that have been traditional sources of international students
- explore the need for targeted incentives to encourage the return of international students
- ensure there is a Minister with designated responsibility for International Education supported by a high-quality advisory panel
- ensure there is clearer Victorian state support through state sponsored visa places, particularly in key areas of workforce need including health, nursing, aged care, agriculture, and hospitality.

This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Premier's Rebuild Victoria Summit** would hold a post-election summit to consult with community and industry leaders on Victoria's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, with costs absorbed by government departments. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Rebuilding Jobs, bringing manufacturing home** would deliver a \$2.5 billion package for rebuilding jobs, and bringing manufacturing home over 10 years, with \$1,137.5 billion provided by the end of 2026-27. \$40 million would be allocated to support targeted essential worker migration over 4 years.

### Restore integrity and accountability to government

This policy bundle includes 2 policies.

**Restore integrity and accountability in government** would allocate:

- \$85.5 million to a clean-up corruption package to provide:
  - \$50 million additional funding to IBAC over 4 years
  - \$16 million additional funding to the Victorian Ombudsman over 4 years
  - an audit of Labor's major projects over \$100 million
  - the reestablishment of the Public Works Committee
  - an overhaul of Victoria's freedom of information system
  - a new Officers of the Parliament Committee
- \$2.8 million for additional resources for the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO)
- \$20 million to establish and operate a Victorian Productivity Commission to independently advise the Victorian Government and community on productivity enhancing reforms.

**Royal Commission into the Victorian Government's COVID response** would provide \$80 million to establish a Royal Commission into the Victorian Government's response to the COVID pandemic.

### Build stronger communities

This policy area includes 63 policies.

**\$8 billion for 29 level crossings** would adjust the scope and scheduling of the 'Twenty-five more level crossing removals by 2030' budget initiative. Priority would be given to the removal of additional level crossings at Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, Tooronga Road, Malvern, High Street, Glen Iris, and Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek. This policy would also prioritise the upgrade of railway stations at Kooyong, Malvern, Glen Iris, and Diamond Creek.

**An integrated transport plan for Victoria, including a bicycle infrastructure plan and refreshed East West Link business case** would provide \$42 million to undertake a new business case into a refreshed East West Link, taking account of fundamental network changes as a result of the West Gate Tunnel and North East Link.

**An integrated transport plan to add to Victoria's bus network** would provide \$160 million, over 4 years, for new bus routes, improved bus routes, and bus route reviews.

**An integrated plan to add to Victoria's road network** would duplicate sections of Racecourse Road, Barwon Heads Road, the Mornington Peninsula Freeway, Leakes Road, Sayers Road, Taylors Road, the Melton Highway, Berwick-Cranbourne Road, Ballan Road, Point Cook Road, and Evans Road.

This policy would also provide:

- \$700 million to upgrade the Western Highway
- \$300 million to build the Kilmore Bypass
- \$260 million to build stage 1 of the Shepparton Bypass on the Goulburn Valley Highway
- \$130 million to build the Wallan Diamond and upgrade Watson Street
- \$60 million for the next stage of the Ballarat Link Road project
- \$22 million for road safety upgrades in Warrandyte South, Narre Warren North, Seville East, Berwick, and Buninyong
- \$6 million for feasibility studies for the Integrated Road Plan
- \$3.4 million for the Queen Street Shared User Bridge.

Additionally, this policy would replace the Boundary Road/Governor Road roundabout with traffic lights and duplicate Governor Road, build the Bulla Bypass, and remove speed humps and raised intersections on Dalton Road and High Street.

**An integrated transport plan to add to Victoria's train network** would:

- provide \$24.1 million to:
  - start planning to build Metro 2 and the City Loop Reconfiguration/Northern Capacity Upgrade
  - complete a business case into the Murray Basin Rail project
  - undertake a scoping study to determine the feasibility of extending the metropolitan network to Wollert and Wallan
  - undertake a scoping study to determine the feasibility of duplicating the Lilydale line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale
  - continue undertaking the Caulfield-Rowville Link preliminary business case with the Australian Government

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- conduct an audit of V/Line fleet to ensure every piece of new rolling stock meets disability requirements.

**An integrated transport plan to add to Victoria's tram network, including extending routes 3, 48 and 75** would deliver a Victorian integrated transport plan, and extend Route 3 from Darling Road to East Malvern Station, Route 48 from Balwyn Road to Westfield Doncaster, and Route 75 from Hanover Road to Westfield Knox.

**Better educated communities** would:

- provide \$5.4 million to better support community language schools across Victoria
- review to improve the Special Examination Arrangements for VCE students, using existing DET resources
- ensure that Victorian students will have their face-to-face learning guaranteed
- provide \$50 million to develop and deliver improve music education in Victorian schools.
- deliver a Tutor Learning Initiative in 2023 and assess the need for further renewal later in the year using existing State Budget funding.

**Better mental health, training and systems for Victoria Police** would provide:

- \$20 million over 4 years to support an expansion of The Police Association Victoria's BlueHub program to support Victoria Police officers with greater access to mental health support services
- \$20 million over 4 years to introduce virtual reality simulation training to augment current operational scenario-based training
- \$1.6 million over 4 years to extend the work of Police Veterans Victoria
- \$20 million over 4 years to support an expansion of The Police Association Victoria's BlueHub program to support Victoria Police officers with greater access to mental health support services.
- \$0.5 million in 2023-24 to conduct an independent, organisation wide review of all IT systems and processes used by Victoria Police to inform a pathway for modernisation.
- \$20 million over 4 years to introduce virtual reality simulation training to augment current operational scenario-based training.

**Better readers plan** would commit \$227 million to fund the Better Readers Plan to improve reading outcomes for Victorian children. This plan would include:

- implementing evidenced-based systematic synthetic phonics in government schools
- the development of a revised Prep to Year 2 reading curriculum
- the provision of new teaching resources, tools and professional development, and expert advice
- the employment of 150 additional specialist allied health staff, and increased support for Maternal and Child Health Services.

**Capped airfares Mildura to Melbourne** would provide \$23 million to launch a trial to cap return airfares to Melbourne from Mildura at \$100. Under the trial, Victorian's living within 150 km of Mildura would be eligible for 1 return airfare in 2022-23 and 1 return airfare in 2024-25.

**Child protection policy** would provide \$200 million over 4 years to fix Victoria's child protection system including the establishment of a new early help and preventative health and wellbeing fund for vulnerable children, and reform to residential and kinship care.

**Cleaning up our communities** would provide \$30 million over 4 years to establish a new grants scheme for community and volunteer groups who commit themselves to cleaning and preserving Victoria's diverse landscapes, and graffiti removal.

**Commonwealth Games in Regional Victoria** would:

- upgrade the Kardinia Park Aquatic Centre into a world-class facility for swimming and diving for the Commonwealth Games, within the existing state budget allocations for the Commonwealth Games.
- build a multi sports facility for the Commonwealth Games at Armstrong Creek including 8 multi-sport courts, a dance studio, and a gymnastics centre to host the artistic gymnastics and weightlifting events, within the existing state budget allocations for the Commonwealth Games
- hold the opening and closing ceremonies of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games at GMHBA Stadium in Geelong
- include Shepparton as a hub for the Commonwealth Games.

Additionally, this policy would:

- introduce legislation to better protect the finances of retirement village residents
- establish an agency within the Department of Housing to regulate rooming houses
- consolidate all rooming house regulation into the new Rooming Houses Act, strengthen the 'Fit and Proper Person' test for rooming house operators, and mandate minimum standards in houses.

This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Community sporting infrastructure and programs** would:

- work with the Australian Football League (AFL) to provide more kick-to-kick opportunities on the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) and other Victorian grounds after football matches
- provide \$584.5 million, including \$14 million in capital funding, towards new and upgraded community sporting infrastructure, and to support sport and active recreation programs across Victoria
- provide \$100 million towards the construction of a new Wyndham Stadium and community recreation precinct.

**Compassionate communities** would provide:

- \$55 million to rejuvenate Victoria's aged care facilities with a commitment to lead a review of public sector aged care facilities in Victoria's rural and interface council areas and kickstart facility renewals and upgrades
- \$6.3 million to secure the future of Victoria's Neighbourhood Houses by committing to recurrent funding
- \$4 million for a Social Enterprise Start Up Fund to provide dollar-for-dollar assistance to social enterprise start-ups and jobs for Victorians with disabilities

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- \$2 million to expand the services offered by the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria to include dispute resolution services for Victoria's retirement village residents
- \$2 million for a Carer and Disability Support Group Resources Fund to provide grants of up to \$5,000 to disability support groups for a range of purposes.

**Connecting country communities (regional communications)** would provide \$200 million to establish a program to improve mobile phone and broadband internet services.

**Country roads and bridges** would provide \$288 million over 4 years to re-establish the Country Roads and Bridges Program. This includes \$1.5 million annual grants to Victoria's 48 regional councils to enhance the safety and quality of Victoria's regional road and bridge infrastructure.

**Creative communities (arts and creative communities)** would provide \$187 million over 4 years to support the arts and creative industries sector, including funding for programs, grants, infrastructure, and improving how government interacts with the sector.

**Drawdown of the Sustainability Fund for projects that improve Victoria's environment** would drawdown the Sustainability Fund to fund projects that improve Victoria's environment.

**Emergency Services training reform** would provide \$54.5 million over 4 years to reform the training of emergency services personnel in Victoria.

**Energy grid safety fund** would provide \$50 million to support the undergrounding of distribution powerlines and vegetation clearing in bushfire and storm affected local government areas.

**Ensure WorkSafe values worker safety** would ensure that WorkSafe remains an effective, accountable and impartial means of administering the Victorian WorkCover Scheme and of enforcing Victoria's workplace safety laws by:

- ensuring that a Royal Commission into Victoria's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic examines the role of hotel quarantine
- introducing legislation to ensure that injured workers and those who have lost loved ones as a result of workplace incidents are better informed of WorkSafe's prosecutorial decisions
- requiring WorkSafe to proactively offer OHS support to new and established businesses.

**Ensuring robust governance and management standards for local government** would provide \$185 million to:

- conduct a detailed review of the overall revenue structure of local government
- support the provision of high-quality community assets and services
- ensure that councils have the ability to provide and administer assets and services
- review the use of 'user pays' charges, including voluntary payments by users, for the use of individual community assets and services
- develop a framework to assist local councils to undertake a 'value for money' assessment prior to developing new, or materially expanding existing charges.

This policy would also freeze all existing local government business fees, charges and levies, and prevent the introduction of new ones for 4 years.

**Fair share for regional Victoria** would create a new Department of Regional Victoria, with costs absorbed by existing departmental budgets. It would also deliver a 25% Regional Infrastructure Funding Guarantee that would deliver at least a quarter of all new government capital investment, in the first term of government, to regional communities.

**Family Violence Implementation Monitor renewal** would provide \$7.5 million to extend the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor to support the ongoing work of implementing the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

**Fixing the Planning Process** would:

- improve the protection of Victoria's built heritage and pre-1930's homes
- make changes to Neighbourhood Residential Zones including a mechanism which respects identified neighbourhood character, a requirement for the preservation of existing tree canopy, a 2-dwelling maximum on a titled site, and mandatory height limits
- initiate a review of the operation of VCAT's planning list.

**Flood Management Strategy** would complete an immediate review of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy to better protect Victorians from the ravages of floods. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Free kinder** would deliver free kinder for 3 and 4-year old children over the next decade, starting in 2023 as well as new childcare facilities within existing State Budget allocations.

**Free TAFE** would support the ongoing development of a diverse vocational education and training system in Victoria and the role of both public and private providers. It would also support a system of Free TAFE and its expansion to cover areas experiencing skill or workforce shortages including nursing and the construction industry. This policy would be funded from within existing State Budget allocations and departmental appropriations.

**Frankston and Cranbourne Rail Extensions** would extend the Frankston line to Baxter, and extend the Cranbourne line to Clyde.

**Future pandemic management** would amend the Victorian *Constitution Act 1975* to limit a State of Emergency or State of Disaster declaration, and to ensure that the operation of the Parliament cannot be suspended under a State of Emergency or State of Disaster declaration, and repeal the 2021 pandemic legislation and replace it with more considered laws. This policy would also guarantee no more lockdowns.

**Geelong metro** would:

- introduce new commuter services from Geelong to Colac, Bannockburn, and Werribee
- build new train stations at Bell Post Hill and Bannockburn
- reopen the rail platform at Moriac
- build a new siding and turnout track at Bannockburn
- plan with local bus operators to align rail and bus timetable schedules.
- relocate all Sprinter railcars to the Geelong area, and order additional V/Locity trains to offset the loss of Sprinters on other lines.



**Giving proper, long-term support for Victoria's State Emergency Service** would provide \$55.05 million to undertake a program of capital works, deliver 6 new paid SES volunteer support officers over 4 years, and deliver 7 district mechanical officers to deliver in-house servicing of SES vehicles.

**Government school capital funding** would provide \$1.1 billion for the construction of new government schools, government school upgrades, and related planning works.

**Green light for Victorian tennis** would provide \$20 million to support plans by Tennis Victoria to install solar panels for at least 400 affiliate sites, and convert non-LED lighting to LED for approximately 1,400 tennis courts.

**Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution drawdown** would drawdown on Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) revenues held in the Growth Areas Public Transport Fund and the Building New Communities Fund.

**Improved kindergarten and childcare support** would provide \$22 million to deliver:

- a new childcare facilities improvement program to provide grants of up to \$500,000 to existing childcare facilities that are run by local government or the not-for-profit sector for the renovation or refurbishment of facilities
- a new childcare workforce planning program to develop a strategy to ensure that all childcare centres will be able to find staff.

**Liquor and gaming policy** would implement all 33 recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Casino Operator and Licence. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Mode shift incentive scheme and gold standard freight network** would:

- provide \$2 million to work with the Australian Road Research Board to produce a 'gold standard freight network' which will include full analysis of the busiest and most important freight routes across Victoria and assess what issues are preventing the running of more efficient trucks
- provide \$20 million over 4 years for the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme.

**More police stations, 500 more PSOs and introduce police response times** would provide \$303.05 million over 4 years consisting of 500 more Protective Services Officers (PSO), including 100 additional PSO and the conversion of 400 Police Custody Officers (PCO) to PSO to assume prisoner custodial management duties at police stations and other administrative duties. It would also support the introduction of response times for Victoria Police in line with other emergency service, and deliver a Victoria Police Facilities and Infrastructure Fund for new, replacement and upgraded police stations and other infrastructure.

**More support for recreational fishers** would:

- provide \$30 million to establish the Fish and Platypus Habitat Restoration Fund to invest in marine, estuarine and freshwater habitat restoration throughout Victoria
- introduce a new \$5 million Regional Councils Boat Ramp Fund to provide matched grants to regional Councils for local boat ramp maintenance
- provide \$1 million in new research funding to ensure that fish restocking programs are followed up and assessed within 12 months to determine their effectiveness and value for money
- use 100% of marine, fishing and boating license fees on facilities and maintaining fishing stocks

- transfer the management of Western Port Bay and Port Phillip Bay boat ramps and associated land and parking to Better Boating Victoria.

**Non-government school capital funding** would provide \$700 million over 4 years for capital funding support to the non-government school sector.

**Productivity support for farmers** would provide \$5 million to support the Birchip Cropping Group's Nexus project. It would also provide \$8 million to fund the Agriculture Futures Extension Program, introduce country of origin labelling requirements for food sold for immediate consumption, such as at pubs, cafes, restaurants and takeaway stores. This policy would also provide \$10 million each year for 4 years for Victorian soil research.

**Protective services officers in hospital** would provide \$28.4 million to undertake a 4-year trial to support the recruitment and deployment of 75 new protective services officers (PSO) to provide around the clock immediate response support from external mobile stations located at, or adjacent to, 5 Victorian hospitals.

**Putting an end to Labor's destructive toxic soil dumping** would provide \$20 million to fast-track processes for the commercial remediation and processing of toxic soil from infrastructure projects.

**Racing Industry Plan** would establish a Ministerial Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG) to be chaired by the Minister for Racing to give representatives of the racing industry the opportunity to provide feedback as an advisory group on issues impacting the sector. The RICG would be comprised of members representing various elements of the racing sector who will have direct engagement with the Minister. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Rebuild the CFA** would provide \$109.76 million to rebuild the CFA including appointing an independent Commissioner for Emergency Services Volunteers, committing recurrent annual funding to Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, and upgrading stations with removal of asbestos and upgrades to the CFA fleet.

**Regional jobs expos** would provide \$4.75 million to deliver regional jobs expos to showcase rural and regional Victoria.

**Reliable and affordable energy while reducing emissions** would provide \$2.54 billion to 2026–27 and \$591.0 million each subsequent year towards 'Fixing Victoria's Grid' taskforce, upgrading transmission infrastructure in western Victoria, modernising the transmission system, providing solar panel and home battery rebates for households and renters, adding solar panels to public infrastructure, boosting tree canopy coverage by planting more trees, legislating to halve emissions by 2030, establishing a \$1 billion Victorian hydrogen fund, and net-zero renewable community projects.

It would also provide \$45 million to support the role of gas in the transition to renewables, encourage gas exploration and development, support a new royalty sharing scheme for landowners affected by new onshore gas production on their land, undertake an immediate review into red tape holding up getting more gas into the Victorian energy market, establish a new Gas Sovereignty Infrastructure Fund, undertake a review of Victoria's Petroleum Regulations, and establish a new Critical Energy Infrastructure Review Panel which would conduct an audit of all Victorian landfill sites to identify opportunities for the use of produced methane gas.

**Respect for Aboriginal communities** would, from within existing departmental funding:

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- establish a standalone Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) inside a service delivery department such as the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, as an agency that provides accountability to Aboriginal Victorians and acts as a central body to coordinate cross-government initiatives
- work with Aboriginal Victorians to advance the treaty process in a way that supports self-determination and reconciliation, strengthens community and connection to country and contributes positively to Closing the Gap on a range of measures.

**Respect for diverse communities** would provide funding of \$9.8 million over 4 years for programs, legal support, engagement, and strategies. This includes support of \$250,000 per year for 4 years to support community radio station JOY FM.

**Respect for rural communities** would:

- review Victoria's Public Land Management standards to ensure 'good neighbour' relations that put equivalent standards onto both the government and private landholders
- transfer management from Parks Victoria to the Game Management Authority (GMA) of State Game Reserves (SGR) where the GMA can prove it is better suited to manage that SGR for the benefit of the environment and the Victorian community
- strengthen Victoria's farm trespass laws to bring maximum fines for individuals in line with NSW and to include licenced water frontage in farmer's biosecurity management plan
- require landholder permission to be a pre-requisite for camping on river frontages and provide licensees with authorisation to remove consent where there has been a breach of determinations
- manage Victoria's brumby population through re-homing and veterinary intervention, and end the plan to eradicate brumbies through aerial and ground shooting – met from within current department funding
- ensure that all proposed legislation is reviewed to assess its compatibility, and potential conflict, with neighbouring state jurisdictions and its impact on cross-border communities, and support the ongoing resourcing of the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner and change the role to a Governor-in-Council appointment.

**Road safety initiatives** would provide:

- \$43.5 million to undertake an extra 2,500 random roadside drug tests each week
- \$23.4 million to:
  - fund a comprehensive virtual driver training program via mobile 'road safety buses' that would reach 50,000 teenage learner drivers
  - invest in buses fitted out to enable the comprehensive virtual driver training program to be delivered regionally
  - review professional driver trainer requirements with a view to identifying areas for improvement
  - reinstate the bipartisan Parliamentary Road Safety Committee
  - introduce additional initiatives to bring rules for younger drivers into line with other states.
- reduce the driving age to 17.

**Safer communities** would:

- bring forward the Swastika ban

- introduce a bill to reinstate Victoria's move on laws
- provide \$100 million to appoint additional VCAT members, Magistrates and County Court judges, and will expand court and tribunal facilities to accommodate these new appointments
- provide \$20 million to expand drug courts, respond to public drunkenness, strengthen anti-bikie gang laws, and strengthen responses to family violence
- provide \$3.6 million to fund the establishment of a Victoria Police Mobile CCTV Cameras Surveillance Unit
- provide \$40 million to overhaul the prison system that is failing women including a focus on cutting reoffending through treatment, skills and expanded support programs
- fix the flawed Working With Children check system
- make appropriate legislative changes to give Victoria Police the power to issue Violence Intervention Orders on-the-spot at an incident, with appropriate safeguards
- give Victoria Police the power to impound a motor vehicle for up to 90 days
- work to increase the number of Justices of the Peace available to support Victoria's legal system.

**Simplifying school curriculum** would invest \$208.7 million to develop and implement a simplified Victorian school curriculum.

**Small towns water and sewerage fund** would provide \$40 million over 4 years to establish a new small towns water and sewerage fund. This policy would also work with councils and water authorities to ensure that more people in country towns will be connected to town sewerage and water supply.

**Strengthening Victoria's native timber industry and protecting old growth forests** would immediately reverse the ban on native timber harvesting, which is scheduled to commence in 2030. This policy would be funded from within existing departmental appropriations.

**Supporting and recognising veterans** would:

- provide \$58.5 million to improve Gold Card Benefits for veterans including free public transport for Veteran Gold Card holders and their companions and more taxi fare concessions
- provide \$10 million towards the construction of the new National Vietnam Veterans' Museum on its new site at Phillip Island
- provide \$20 million towards modernising facilities to support the Ward 17 program now and into the future.

**Supporting community and environmental projects** would provide \$480 million to support important community and environmental projects and programs across Victoria.

**Supporting multicultural communities** would:

- provide \$97.7 million to support multicultural programs and investment including a new Multicultural and Multi Faith Infrastructure Fund, a new Multicultural Heritage Fund, a culture-specific museum grants program, and other initiatives
- provide \$3.4 million for the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV) to enable it to better serve multicultural communities, which includes a one-off \$100,000 should its application for charitable status be successful



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- introduce a new Charter outlining its commitment to the principles which underpin Victoria's success as a multicultural society
- restore the independence of the Victorian Multicultural Commission
- increase the minimum percentage of state government department and agency advertising expenditure allocated to multicultural media and communications from 5% to 12% in its first year, then to 10% for the remainder of the parliamentary term.

**Ten billion in ten years on road maintenance** would increase investment in road maintenance to \$10 billion over the coming decade, providing on average \$1 billion per annum for the department's Road Asset Management output.

**Victim support** would provide \$6.12 million consisting of:

- \$5.42 million over 4 years to establish a victims support rapid response service to help victims in the immediate aftermath of crimes, road trauma, emergencies, disasters, and critical incidents involving distressing or traumatic circumstances
- \$700,000 over 4 years for work related to amending the *Corrections Act 1986* to require the addition of a victim or victim's representative community member to Adult Parole Board meetings considering 'tier-one' general offenders or serious violent or sexual offenders.

**Zero to landfill** would provide \$120 million over 4 years, drawing down from the Sustainability Fund, to support the commitment to achieve a 100% reduction of household waste going to landfill by 2025, including:

- a Zero to Landfill Fund with a 'Recycling Futures Stream' to upgrade recycling technology, standards, rules and facilities and partner with local councils
- an 'Energy-from-waste Stream' to deliver projects that recover energy from non-recyclable waste
- the delivery of a container deposit scheme in Victoria.