



Victorian
Liberals & Nationals

OUR PLAN for Financial Integrity

We will manage
your money better

So we can deliver
what really matters



THE NATIONALS
for Regional Victoria

Our Plan for Financial Integrity

1. Delivering honest and transparent budgets
2. Tracking your dollars in real-time
3. Planning for Victoria's future



John Pesutto MP
Victorian Liberal Leader



Brad Rowswell MP
Shadow Treasurer



Jess Wilson MP
Shadow Finance Minister



A message from John Pesutto, Leader of the Opposition

Like many Victorians, I grew up believing in a state full of opportunity – a place where hard work, fairness, and ambition could pave the way for a brighter future. But today, under the Allan Labor Government, that promise feels increasingly out of reach.

Victoria is facing a cost of living crisis driven, in large part, by the Allan Labor Government's reckless spending decisions. Debt has soared to unprecedented levels, and billions of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars have been wasted on major project cost blowouts.

Victorians deserve better. They deserve a government that works for them, not against them. A government that manages their money responsibly, so we can secure the services, infrastructure, and future we all rely on.

Over the past year, we've listened to Victorians through our conversations with you about a better tax system. You have told us that you want to see greater integrity and transparency in the way your tax dollars are collected, managed, and spent by Government.

This is the first part of our three part response to the tax review.

Our Plan for restoring integrity to Victoria's finances is built on three key commitments. First, we will introduce a **Charter of Budget Honesty** – a first for any state. This Charter will ensure that every budget is transparent, with clear, enforceable rules that hold the government accountable for every dollar spent. No more hidden costs. No more financial tricks.

Second, we will give you the power to track your money in real time through a **public expenditure tracker**. You will be able to see where your money is going – whether it's on health, education, or infrastructure – so you can have confidence it is being spent on what really matters to you.

Third, we will produce an **Intergenerational Report** every five years, so that future generations aren't burdened by today's decisions. This report will lay out a roadmap for long-term financial planning, ensuring that we invest wisely in the infrastructure and services our growing population needs.

Waste and mismanagement are rooted out, and that the government is held to the highest standards of accountability.

This is a plan to clean up the books. It's about restoring trust, protecting your future, and ensuring that Victoria remains a place of opportunity for everyone.

With the right leadership, we cut the waste, end Labor's mismanagement, and deliver a state that works for all Victorians.

Our commitment is clear: we will manage your money better, and we will deliver the financial integrity that Victoria deserves. Together, we can build a future where opportunity thrives, not debt. A future where financial responsibility is the foundation for growth, security, and prosperity for generations to come.

John Pesutto MP

Honest and Transparent Budgets

Victorians deserve a government that respects their money. But under the Allan Labor Government, billions of dollars have been hidden in budget contingencies, while major projects have been plagued by cost blowouts. Families across the state are feeling the pinch as they hurt from increased taxes driving up their cost of living, and our rising debt threatening the quality health and education services we rely on.

Right now, Victoria's net debt (General Government Sector) is forecast to hit \$187.8 billion by 2027-28¹. This is putting our services, infrastructure, and the economic stability of every Victorian at risk, because we are running out of money to pay for what Victorians want and need due to servicing the debt burden. We can't afford this level of reckless financial mismanagement any longer.

A Liberal and Nationals Government will restore confidence in our budgets by introducing a Charter of Budget Honesty – making Victoria the only state in Australia to have one in place. This will ensure that every budget is transparent and held to enforceable fiscal rules.

You'll be able to see where your money is going and trust that it's being spent responsibly. Regular budget updates, including mid-year reports, will be reviewed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office to keep government spending in check.

A Charter will end Labor's practice of dishonest Budget tricks. Treasurer's advances, which should be reserved for urgent and unforeseen events, have been abused by Labor. In 2022-23 alone, \$12.2 billion was funnelled into 335 policies outside the usual budget process. This practice has undermined the integrity of our finances, leaving Victorians in the dark about how their taxes are being used.

Under our plan, the Treasurer's advances will not be overused. Every policy will go through the proper budget process, and you'll be able to follow how your money is spent.

A Liberal and Nationals Government will deliver honest, accountable, and responsible financial management. No more hidden costs. No more shady deals. Every dollar will be accounted for, so you know your hard-earned taxes are being put to work for the future of Victoria – not wasted.

¹ For the non-financial public sector however, net debt is forecast to hit 155.3 billion this financial year alone. This is the figure credit rating agencies assess.



Victorians deserve better. They deserve a government that works for them, not against them. A government that manages their money responsibly.

John Pesutto MP
Victorian Liberal Leader



Why we need a Charter of Budget Honesty

1.

A Charter of Budget Honesty will bring Victoria in line with the Federal Government's best practice model, introduced in 1998.

The Charter requires governments to deliver clear, accurate financial reports, including an annual fiscal strategy, a Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO), and pre-election financial updates. This transparency is vital for restoring trust in government and ensuring financial accountability.

2.

The Allan Labor Government's use of hidden contingencies has concealed over \$70 billion in future recurrent and capital expenditures.

Our Charter of Budget Honesty will put a stop to this, requiring all budget allocations and forecasts to be fully disclosed and independently verified.

3.

Labor's level crossing removal program has blown out by at least \$3.3 billion from its initial estimated cost of \$5 billion. Even so, it is nearly impossible to determine the scale and quantity of blowouts on individual projects, because Labor does not report on the cost of individual grade separation projects within their program.

This is Victorians' money – they deserve to know how it is spent and by how much each level crossing is blowing out by.

Managing your money better

SEEING WHERE YOUR MONEY IS SPENT, IN REAL TIME

Victorians deserve full transparency on how their money is used, and the Liberals and Nationals Government will deliver it.

A real-time public expenditure tracker will allow you to follow every dollar spent by the government. You will be able to view how much money has been allocated for each major area of Government spending – whether it's hospitals, roads, or schools. The tracker will give live updates, allowing you to see how your taxes are being spent in real time.

The Allan Labor Government has consistently hidden budget overruns and mismanaged spending on major projects. Over the past ten years, Labor has wasted more than \$40 billion on project overruns and made major spending decisions – like announcing the Suburban Rail Loop outside of the current Budget reporting system and timelines. Our real-time tracker will expose waste and ensure Victorians know how their money is being used.

No more hidden costs, no more financial mysteries. Accountability will be at the heart of government spending.

The tracker will be integrated with existing systems, making it easy for Victorians to access and monitor how their money is being spent.

Every Victorian will have the tools to monitor government spending, giving you confidence ensuring your hard-earned money is being used on the services and projects that matter to you.

A Liberals and Nationals Government will transform Victoria's financial management by amending the Financial Management Act 1994 (Vic) to introduce a stronger accountability and transparency framework.

The changes will include mandating real-time updates of all significant government spending, allowing taxpayers to track how their money is being spent through a publicly accessible online tracker². This tool will organise spending by major categories such as healthcare, infrastructure, and education, providing live updates to ensure government accountability.

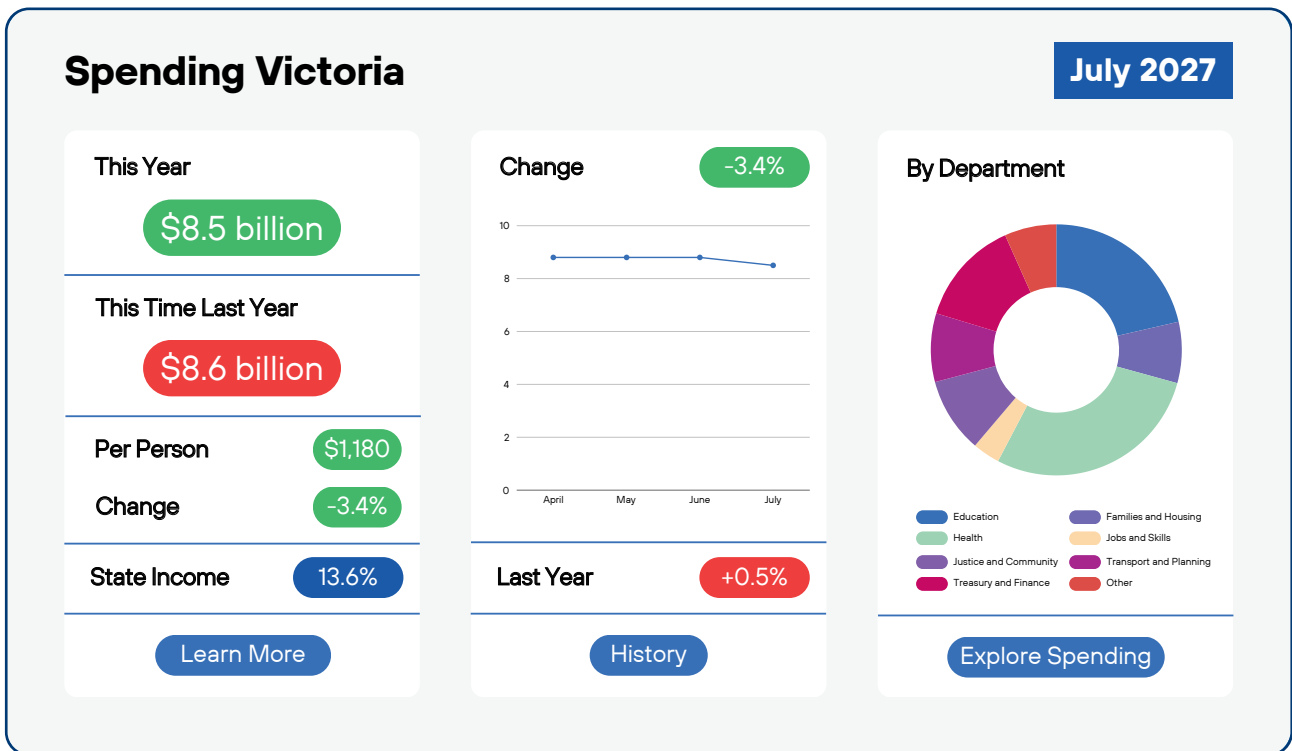
The new framework will be built on five key principles:

- 1. Real-Time Spending Accountability:** All major government spending will be updated in real time, allowing the public to see how every dollar is being used.
- 2. Budget Transparency:** Budget decisions, including allocations and adjustments, will be fully disclosed, giving Victorians a clear understanding of financial choices.
- 3. Integrity in Budget Planning:** Budgets will be based on accurate cost assessments, with safeguards against hidden costs or blowouts.
- 4. Transparent Costing of Pre-Election Commitments:** All pre-election promises will be publicly and consistently costed, ensuring transparency and honesty in political commitments.
- 5. Long-Term Fiscal Responsibility:** Budgeting will consider the impact on future generations, ensuring that debt and spending are managed responsibly.

² The tracker will reflect the most up to date regular settling of accounts for each major portfolio.

Victorians deserve full transparency on how their money is used.

Example of real-time government spending tracker



“ **Our real-time tracker will show Victorians how their money is being spent.** ”

Jess Wilson MP
Shadow Minister for Finance



Planning for the future

AN INTERGENERATIONAL REPORT

Victoria is at a critical juncture, with nearly \$188 billion in debt forecast by 2027 under the Allan Labor Government. This is an unsustainable path, leaving future generations burdened by debt and forced to clean up the mess of today's poor fiscal management.

A key tool in reversing this reckless trajectory is the introduction of Victoria's first-ever Intergenerational Report – a comprehensive analysis of how today's decisions will impact our future economy, services, and growth.

In recent years, the Australian Intergenerational Report – first introduced by a Liberals and Nationals Government at the Commonwealth level – has highlighted how an aging population is set to increase demand on health and aged care sectors, driving up costs. It has also underscored the importance of productivity to maintain economic growth.

Modelled after the Australian Intergenerational Report, the Victorian version will provide a long-term view of our economic health. It will examine vital factors such as population growth, changing demographics, and productivity. Similarly, Victoria's Intergenerational Report will help us confront challenges before they become crises, driving investments in infrastructure, services, and new industries that position us for long-term success.

Victoria's first Intergenerational Report will be produced every five years, overseen by the Victorian Productivity Commission created by a Pesutto Liberals and Nationals Government.

The report will offer a roadmap for how we can manage growth without overwhelming taxpayers, ensuring that as our population increases, so do our economic opportunities and public services. It will detail the future

infrastructure, healthcare, and educational needs of Victorians, empowering governments to make strategic, data-driven investments that serve both current and future generations.


The Liberals and Nationals are committed to setting Victoria on a new path—one that balances economic growth with fiscal responsibility. With a clear picture of what's ahead, we will stop project blowouts and wasteful spending (for example – the Commonwealth Games) guide smart investments, and protect future generations from crippling debt. This is about securing Victoria's future, and the Intergenerational Report will be a key tool in achieving that



Victorians deserve better. They deserve a government that works for them, not against them. A government that manages their money responsibly.

Brad Rowswell MP
Shadow Treasurer





We will build a future where opportunity thrives, not debt. A future where financial responsibility is the foundation for growth, security, and prosperity for generations to come.

A photograph of two women wearing white hard hats and high-visibility vests, looking at a smartphone together on a construction site. The woman on the left is wearing a pink shirt and a white hard hat, while the woman on the right is wearing a black shirt and a white hard hat. They are standing behind a yellow barrier. The background is blurred, showing trees and a building.

**Our plan is
about restoring
trust, protecting
your future,
and ensuring
that Victoria
remains a place
of opportunity
for everyone.**



For more details visit vic.liberal.org.au



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