

## NSW Budget Reply 2017

June 2017

On Thursday 22 June 2017, the NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley MP delivered the Opposition's response to the New South Wales (NSW) Budget.

Mr. Foley said jobs growth and investment in infrastructure and regional NSW would be priorities under a Foley Labor Government.

Mr. Foley's Budget Reply is available [here](#).

This Occasional Paper will outline key policy commitments and initiatives outlined in Mr. Foley's Budget Reply across various portfolio areas.

### Infrastructure

Mr. Foley called for the establishment of a joint Commonwealth-State Western Sydney Airport Coordination authority to maximise flow on opportunities from the construction of Badgerys Creek airport.

Mr. Foley also committed a future Labor Government to the delivery of Western Metro, including an underground rail line between Parramatta and the Sydney CBD.

### Energy

Mr. Foley committed a future Labor Government to price re-regulation in the electricity sector, including restrictions on the "super profits" made by electricity companies.

Mr. Foley called on the government to tender for 100 MW of renewable energy storage.

He confirmed a future Labor Government will also re-invest profits from Snowy Hydro to renewable energy projects across the state, particularly in regional NSW, and legislate the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)'s recommended solar tariff rate.

### Housing

Mr. Foley committed a future Labor Government to introducing the following mandatory affordable and social housing requirements:

- 25 per cent of dwellings constructed on government owned land to be reserved for affordable housing; and
- 15 per cent of dwellings constructed on privately-owned developments to be



reserved for affordable housing.

Foley also committed support for federal negative gearing reform.

### **Education and training**

Mr. Foley said a future Labor Government would commit to a 15 per cent local jobs content requirement on all Government infrastructure projects valued over \$500,000, reserved for apprentices, trainees, Indigenous Australians and the long term unemployed.

A Foley Government would establish a Private Providers Investigation Unit to investigate the vocational education sector.

A future Labor Government would also require each new school include childcare or after-hours care facilities, and a commitment to 15 hours per week of affordable preschool education for every child.

### **Additional measures**

Mr. Foley outlined the following as priorities under a future Labor Government:

- The abolishment of payroll tax for small and medium businesses in Far West NSW;
- A local build of all future ambulance vehicles;
- The establishment of Nurse-Walk-In-Centres for people with minor ailments to access without placing pressure on hospitals;
- A one off Elective Surgery Acceleration Plan to reduce elective surgery waiting lists;
- The holding of a plebiscite on forced local government amalgamations; and
- NSW joining the domestic violence support organisation, One Watch.

### **Further information**

Mr Foley's Budget Reply is available [here](#).

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