

Victorian Labor's election policy commitments

December 2018

On Saturday 24 November 2018, the Andrews Labor Government was overwhelmingly re-elected for a second term with Leader Daniel Andrews returned as Premier. At time of publication, the Andrews Labor Government holds 54 seats of the 88-seat Legislative Assembly, with five electorates remaining in doubt. The outcome so far represents an increase of nine from Labor's one-seat majority in the 58th Parliament.

Victorian Electoral Commission results for the Legislative Council continue to be finalised, but it is unlikely the Andrews Government will secure a majority in the upper house.

Victorian Labor's election campaign focused on delivering services and building a future for all Victorians.

This Occasional Paper outlines the key policies announced as part of Labor's election campaign.

Full detail of policy costings is available [here](#).

Infrastructure and Transport

Premier Daniel Andrews has identified public transport as a key policy priority. A number of road and rail projects are already underway as part of Labor's 2014 election promises, including the West Gate Tunnel and Monash Freeway upgrades.

The Andrews Government's \$150 million second-term plan provides for an overhaul of the Victorian public transport network, integrating the Metro Tunnel, Suburban Rail Loop, and Airport Rail Link, and three new interdependent projects for fast rail:

- \$16.5 billion for the **North East Link** project with an additional \$110 million to fast track planning and design (media release [here](#))
- \$300 million for a business case on the \$50 billion **Suburban Rail Loop**, a proposed underground network of 12 new train stations to connect the southern, eastern, and northern suburbs (media release [here](#))
- \$5 billion for the **Airport Rail link** from Sunshine to Melbourne Airport to match investment from the Federal Government (media release [here](#))
- \$750 million for the **Cranbourne Line Duplication Project**, and a plan for a new rail link to Clyde (media release [here](#))
- \$100 million for the **Western Rail Plan** for the full separation of regional and metro services on the Geelong and Ballarat lines (media release [here](#))
- \$150 million to establish the **Car Parks for Commuters Fund** to build 11,000 new spaces at metropolitan and regional train stations (media release [here](#))
- A commitment to **remove 25 dangerous level crossings** by 2025 in addition to the 20 level crossings removed as part of Victorian Labor's 2014 election promise (media release [here](#)).

Environment/Energy

A Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) and associated reverse auctions are central to the Government's energy policy, with further commitment to:

- 25% of **energy production in Victoria from renewable sources** by 2020, 40% by 2025 and 50% by 2030



- Enshrine the **ban on hydraulic fracturing** (fracking) in the Victorian Constitution; and \$1 million for marketing activities to promote Victoria's fracking-free food and fibre sector (media release [here](#))
- \$1.34 billion for the **Solar Homes Program** including:
 - \$1.24 billion to subsidise 650,000 homes' **solar panel installation** for half price and allow repayment of remaining cost over four years with interest-free loans (media release [here](#))
 - \$60 million for 60,000 households to receive a \$1000 rebate for **solar hot water system installation** (media release [here](#))
 - \$82 million over 10 years to provide an additional 50,000 rebates on **solar panels for Victorian renters** (media release [here](#))
 - \$40 million for **half price solar batteries** for 10,000 Victorian households that already have solar panels through a 50 per cent rebate for installation of a battery storage unit (media release [here](#)).

Health

The Health portfolio featured heavily in Victorian Government's 2018 election campaign.

Commitments include:

- \$1.5 billion for a new 504 bed **Footscray Hospital** at Victoria University's four-hectare Footscray Park campus, on the corner of Geelong and Ballarat Roads (media release [here](#))
- \$109 million for a **package to support paramedics** providing for recruitment of 90 paramedics, the addition of 23 new ambulance vehicles and new ambulance stations (media release [here](#))
- \$675 million to build and upgrade **ten new community hospitals** at Whittlesea, Eltham, Point Cook and Fishermans Bend (media release [here](#))
- Funding an additional **500,000 regional specialist appointments** over four years to reduce waiting times (media release [here](#))
- \$562 million to **redevelop Frankston Hospital** adding 120 new hospital beds, two new operating theatres and an additional 13 new emergency department beds as part of an 11-storey redevelopment (media release [here](#))
- \$50 million to establish a Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund to recruit 1,100 new nurses and midwives (media release [here](#))
- \$4 million to support the **National Centre for Farmer Health** which offers dedicated healthcare services to farmers, their families and their communities (media release [here](#))
- A **Royal Commission into Mental Health** to begin within 100 days of being elected (media release [here](#))
- A \$14 million research grant to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (costing detail [here](#)).

Education

The Andrews Government has committed to a total \$1.2 billion investment in education including:

- \$5 billion over ten years for 15 hours of **three-year-old kinder**, with rollout beginning in 2020 (media release [here](#))
- \$1.68 billion over ten years, to build 785 **new kinders** and expand 170 existing services (media release [here](#))
- \$220 million to establish the **Building Better TAFEs Fund** to upgrade campuses at the Gordon Institute in Geelong, the Collingwood campus of Melbourne Polytechnic, GOTAFE in



Seymour and a new library and learning hub for South West TAFE in Warrnambool (media release [here](#))

- A total of \$400 million to build and upgrade schools across Victoria including:
 - \$6.5 million to upgrade Staughton College in Melton (media release [here](#))
 - \$4 million to upgrade Park Hill Primary School in Ashwood (media release [here](#))
 - \$5.7 million to upgrade Research Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$5 million to upgrade South Yarra Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$1 million to upgrade Pascoe Vale South Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$2 million to upgrade Watsonia Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$12.8 million to upgrade Clifton Hill Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$13.4 million to upgrade St Helena Secondary College (media release [here](#))
 - \$7.3 million to construct a new arts, science and physics building at Strathmore Secondary College (media release [here](#))
 - \$1.1 million to upgrade Waverley Meadows Primary School in Wheelers Hill (media release [here](#))
 - \$4.8 million to upgrade Derinya Primary School in Frankston South (media release [here](#))
 - \$4.1 million to upgrade Wales Street Primary School in Thornbury (media release [here](#))
 - \$9 million to refurbish Fitzroy North Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$6.2 million to upgrade Brunswick North West Primary School (media release [here](#))
 - \$3.1 million to upgrade Diamond Valley College (media release [here](#)).

Jobs

Victorian Labor's proposed infrastructure projects will create a significant number of new jobs for Victorians. The Government's priorities to build, buy and hire local, reform the TAFE sector and review parts of the industrial relations system were supported by key election commitments:

- Create a new criminal offence of workplace manslaughter in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- \$1.3 billion overall for the *Solar Homes* Program including \$9 million to support accreditation of 4,500 electricians to install solar panels creating 5,500 new jobs (media release [here](#))
- \$3 million for the *Indian Cinema and Bollywood Attraction Fund* to attract Indian film projects to Victoria (media release [here](#))
- Enshrine the Easter Sunday, Christmas Day and Grand Final Friday public holiday penalty rates in state legislation (media release [here](#)).

Fairness

A central theme of the Andrews Government's first term, 'fairness' has been carried forward on the following initiatives:

- \$209 million to build an additional 1,000 public housing properties over three years (media release [here](#))
- \$150 million to add 6,500 hectares of parkland and new walking and bike trails across Melbourne including in Officer, Clyde, Craigieburn, South Morang and Carrum (media release [here](#))
- Establish a Better Boating Fund to fix boat ramps, abolish all boat ramp parking and launching fees and grow fish stocking to 10 million a year by 2022 (media release [here](#)).

Further information

Further information on the Victorian Government's election policies is available [here](#).

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