

POLICY BRIEFING TAKE BACK CONTROL OF SPENDING



Libertarian

GOVERNMENT IS SPENDING YOUR MONEY LIKE DRUNKEN SAILORS - VICTORIANS - IT'S TIME TO TAKE BACK CONTROL OF THE SPENDING CRISIS

While you struggle with rising living costs, politicians are blowing through your tax money like it's confetti. This increases your cost of living in Victoria.

The shocking numbers:

- Victoria's debt: \$167 billion and climbing fast
- In just 2-3 years: Our debt will be \$194 billion
- Interest payments alone: \$7.3 billion per year of OUR money
- That's \$7.3 billion every single year just paying interest - money that could have cut your taxes, fixed roads, or hired teachers, nurses, police and lots more. Instead, our money is going straight to banks and big business financiers.

But it gets much worse. The government has committed to build the Suburban Rail Loop which is set to cost \$223 billion today up from \$50 billion in 2018. Add inflation and debt charges over the twenty plus years of the build and the cost will likely exceed \$400 billion. (See our ['Cancel Suburban Rail Loop'](#) policy for details) .

THE PROBLEM: THE CURRENT POLITICIANS HAVE NO LIMITS

Right now, there are NO RULES stopping current politicians from:

- Spending whatever they want on their pet projects.
- Borrowing unlimited amounts for you and future generations to repay.
- Hiding where your money goes behind bureaucratic secrecy. It's dishonest.
- Creating slush funds they can spend without parliamentary approval. More dishonesty!

You wouldn't run your household this way. Why do we let politicians run our state this way?



OUR SOLUTION: CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITS ON GOVERNMENT

1 FORCE GOVERNMENT TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

Constitutional Amendment: Politicians can only spend what they collect in taxes.

No more borrowing sprees. No more passing debt to you, your children, your friends. Emergency exceptions only for genuine crises.



2 CAP GOVERNMENT SPENDING AT 15% OF THE ECONOMY

Constitutional Spending Cap: Government can never consume more than 15% of Victoria's total economic output. It's called honesty.

This forces politicians to stick to sensible, responsible spending.



3 CAP GOVERNMENT DEBT AT 6% OF THE ECONOMY

This forces government and politicians to control their spending.

4 ALL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS HAVE EXPIRY DATES

Automatic Sunset Clauses: Every government program dies after a set period unless politicians publicly justify renewing it. This creates sensible spending discipline.

No more programs that run forever consuming your tax dollars for no reason.



5 STOPPING THE SECRET SLUSH FUNDS

Victorian politicians have turned “Treasurer’s Advances” into basically a \$12 billion slush fund, about 12 percent of the entire budget, that is pre-approved by Parliament with no stated purpose and then spent later with minimal scrutiny.

We'll stop these secret spending powers and force politicians to justify every dollar to parliament and the public. That's democracy!



6 EVERY DOLLAR MUST BE PUBLICLY ACCOUNTED FOR

Complete Transparency: Every government department must publish online exactly where every dollar comes from and where every dollar goes. That's sensible.

Line-by-line spending reports. No more hiding waste behind "budget items" and bureaucratic jargon. This happens all the time. It must stop.



7 REAL OVERSIGHT, NOT FAKE OVERSIGHT

Give Opposition MPs Real Resources. Right now, government MPs have armies of staff to write budgets. Opposition MPs have almost nothing to scrutinize those budgets.

We'll give opposition and crossbench MPs dedicated budget analysis teams so they can actually hold government accountable. That's proper democracy!



8 STRENGTHEN WATCHDOG AGENCIES

The Auditor-General, Ombudsman, and corruption commission are supposed to catch government waste and corruption.

But government controls their funding - so they can be silenced with budget cuts.

We'll make these agencies financially independent so they can fearlessly investigate government waste and corruption. That's proper accountability.



9 MODERNIZE GOVERNMENT TO CUT COSTS

Implement the Victorian Government's Digital Strategy 2021-2026 program.



10 USE TECHNOLOGY TO SLASH BUREAURACY

AI and digital systems can do the work of hundreds of bureaucrats - faster, cheaper, and more accurately. Example: Instead of hiring 50 people to process forms, use AI to process them instantly. We'll modernize government systems to deliver better services at lower cost.

11 WE WILL CANCEL THE IRRESPONSIBLE SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP

We will cancel the SRL to stop \$400 billion of extra debt spending being loaded onto Victoria and Victorians. (See our ['Cancel Suburban Rail Loop'](#) loop policy for details)



THE CHOICE

Current System:

- Politicians spend unlimited amounts with no accountability.
- Massive debt passed to you, your children and friends.
- Secret slush funds and hidden waste.

The Libertarian Party System:

- Constitutional limits on spending and debt.
- Complete transparency on every dollar.
- Modern, efficient government that serves you.



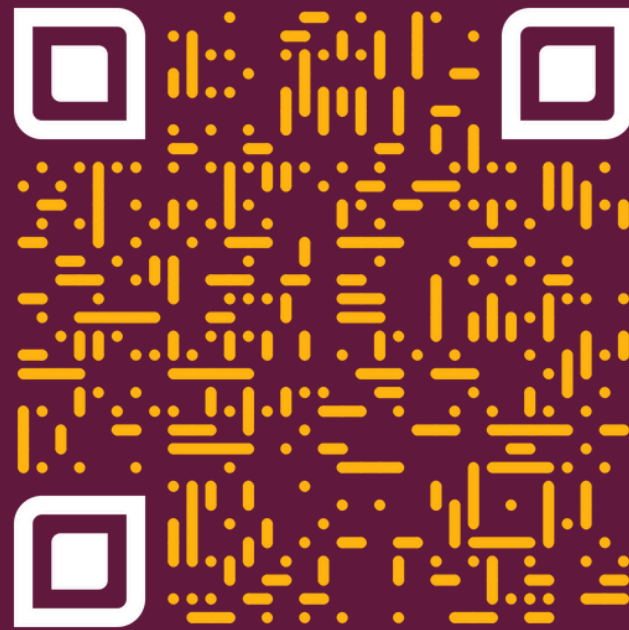
IT'S YOUR MONEY.

For decades, politicians have treated taxpayers like their personal bank account. They spend whatever they want, borrow whatever they want, and hide the details from you. This is not democracy. That ends now.

The Libertarian Party will impose constitutional limits on government and create complete transparency in government spending and stop irresponsible big debt spending. Because it's not the government's money. It's not the politician's money.

It's YOUR money.

<https://vic.libertarians.org.au/policies>



Our Policies



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