

Victorian Budget 2010

THE LEGACY OF JOHN BRUMBY AFTER 11 YEARS: FAILURE OF BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Pre-Budget Summary Edition

Paper by the Victorian Shadow Treasurer,
Kim Wells MP
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Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition

THE LEGACY OF JOHN BRUMBY'S 11 YEARS: SPIN, DISHONESTY AND A BREAKDOWN OF BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Irrespective of the decade of failing services and crumbling infrastructure under John Brumby there is one issue above all else which has emerged as a pivotal and defining characteristic of a tired and out of touch State Labor Government – the complete and utter absence of ministerial accountability.

Not once have Victorians heard Premier John Brumby or his Ministers ever say, “I accept responsibility” or “I am responsible”. The fact is there has been an absolute deafening silence when it comes to John Brumby and State Labor accepting responsibility for their litany of failures.

And the list of excuses or those to blame just continues to grow – the Kennett Government, the Howard Government, the Rudd Government, the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), the drought, climate change, the heat, the cold, Connex (Metro) and population growth.

And when all else fails it's a safe bet they will blame the State Coalition.

No one makes excuses like the Brumby Government.

Public accountability has fallen by the wayside and has been replaced by a deliberate and calculated policy of misleading Victorians through a constant barrage of media spin.

When the spin hasn't worked, hundreds of millions of dollars spent on blatant political government advertising have been expended to deflect from an issue and gloss things over.

And when it comes to the financial and economic management of Victoria, John Brumby must be held to account.

Despite a decade of record revenues of more than \$340 billion and spiralling state debt forecast to reach \$31 billion by 2013, John Brumby and his Government have been abject failures at fixing Victoria's basic services and infrastructure problems.

Not only has the Premier lost a generational chance to deliver real and meaningful improvements to Victoria's Government services and infrastructure but he will leave a deeply concerning state debt legacy for future generations of Victorians to pay back.

Victorians have a right to know where all the billions of dollars of revenue and debt have gone under John Brumby's watch because when it comes to law and order, health, education and public transport, they continue to have little to show for it.

With respect to the Victorian economy, the State has been drifting aimlessly without direction under John Brumby and without the enormous assistance and largesse of the fiscal stimulatory package bestowed upon it by the Rudd Government in 2009, the State Budget would have been in the red by over \$2 billion.

Furthermore, the Victorian Coalition believes that John Brumby has failed to properly position Victoria to take advantage of the post-GFC economic growth now being experienced across Australia, by not addressing the real problems within the state economy and by his continuing heavy reliance on a narrow, housing-led recovery.

When it comes to managing Victoria's economy or delivering on promises to improve basic Government services and infrastructure, John Brumby and Labor simply cannot be trusted.

Victorians deserve better than John Brumby's decade of failure.

Introduction

John Brumby has overseen a decade of budgets in which revenues have now more than doubled to bring into the Victorian treasury coffers more than \$340 billion and accumulated budget surpluses of close to \$12 billion. But what do we have for our money?

The fact is, State Labor has wasted a generational opportunity to not only improve and provide quality government services to all Victorians but also to invest in road, rail, energy and port networks across the State, productive investments which are required to enable a more efficient, competitive and flexible Victorian economy.

Record levels of GST revenue and State taxes, including stamp duty, land tax, gambling taxes and payroll tax, together with a host of new State taxes and charges imposed on Victorians, have not produced the infrastructure and the basic services the State desperately needs.

And to further prevent the State Budget going into the red, something that would have occurred in a major way more than \$2 billion this financial year without the generous largesse of the Rudd Government's 'Nation Building' fiscal stimulus package in 2009, John Brumby continues to gouge more and more taxes, charges and tolls from Victorian businesses and individuals.

In particular, a high reliance on property-based taxes is not sustainable long term and is contributing to the serious problem of housing affordability which is locking out many Victorians, particularly young first home buyers, from the property market.

The Victorian Coalition also continues to be deeply concerned about rapidly increasing State debt levels.

Net State debt for the non-financial public sector is expected to rise to \$31.3 billion by 2012-13, the equivalent of nearly \$6,000 for every Victorian – a serious burden for current and future generations to pay back.

Victorians expect the State Government to deliver in several key areas in the 2010-11 State Budget. They have continued to wait for:

- Improved basic services and infrastructure - they are demanding better outcomes in law and order, public transport, roads, water, energy, education and health services;
- Implementation of a co-ordinated long-term infrastructure plan for the building of Victoria's economic and social infrastructure to better deliver services and enhance our industry competitiveness;
- Funding to properly respond to the recommendations of the Bushfires Royal Commission;
- No new state taxes;
- A comprehensive review of State taxation following the release of the federal Henry tax review to drive long-term tax reform and ensure Victoria remains a competitive and dynamic state economy;
- A fast-track review of State Government tendering practices and contracts to ensure value for money, fairness and transparency; and
- A debt repayment plan including publishing the debt and liability profile of all state infrastructure projects.

John Brumby and the State Labor Government are now marked by complacency, arrogance and reactive decision making, policy development and implementation.

Whilst the Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition has already announced 60 policy initiatives (Appendix A) for the forthcoming state election on 27 November, in contrast, and as an example of the policy-free vacuum in which State Labor finds itself after eleven years, the Brumby Government has resorted to 'adopting' some 60 previously announced Coalition policy initiatives since the 2006 State election (Appendix B). The latest announcement from John Brumby on police is playing catch-up again by adopting almost precisely the Coalition's pledge to substantially increase police numbers on our streets and trains.

Victorians have had enough of Labor's failures and excuses and they want to see real action in this Budget.

The State Budget and a Decade of Labor

The Victorian State Labor Government has now been in office for over a decade and John Brumby has played a leading role in the delivery of nearly every Budget.

In 1999, Labor inherited a State which had an operating surplus of more than \$1.7 billion, low and falling state debt, a State which had a restored AAA credit rating, a State which was the manufacturing engine room of the nation and a State where growth had outpaced national economic growth since the end of the 1991-92 recession.

John Brumby's mismanagement of an unprecedented record revenue inflow over the past decade represents a missed generational opportunity to consolidate the State's competitive advantages and develop a more balanced, diversified and dynamic economy.

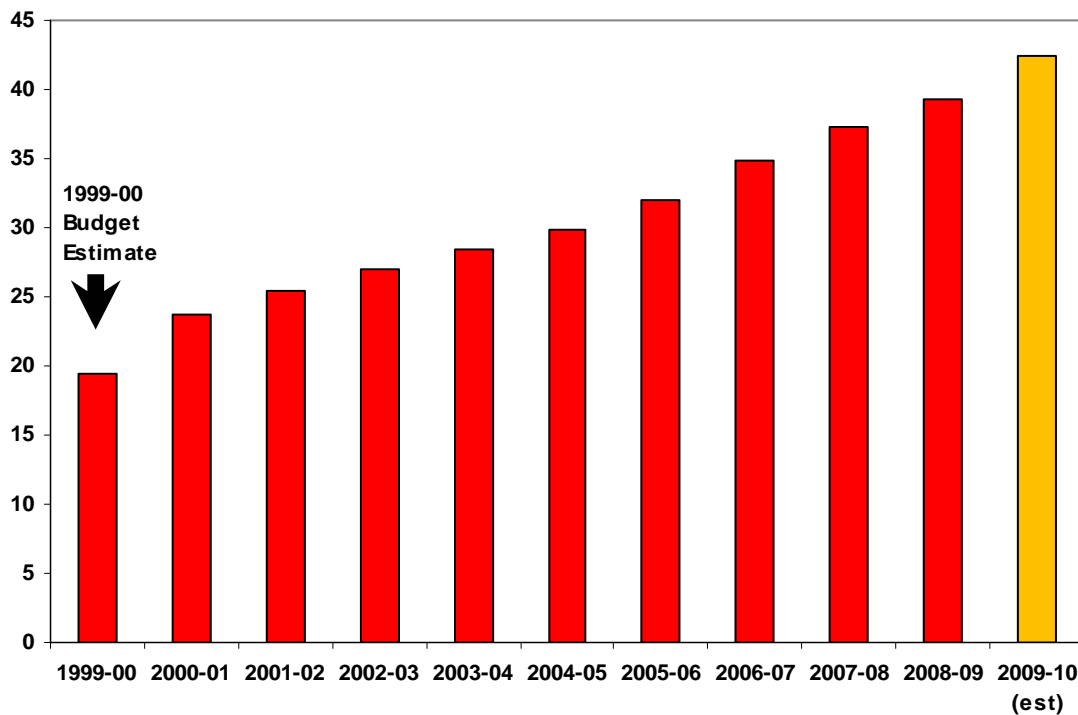
Services and infrastructure continue to fail and crumble under John Brumby.

John Brumby's Revenue Windfall

In just a decade Labor has seen its annual Budget revenues more than double to well over \$40 billion. Labor has had \$340 billion in taxes and grants over that time, an unparalleled windfall.

At no time in Victoria's history has a government had access to such a sustained flood of riches.

Chart 1
RECORD TAXES AND GRANTS PRODUCE UNPRECEDENTED REVENUE WINDFALL
(\$ Billion)



Unfortunately there has been no equivalent doubling of services to match this rich flow of revenue.

Instead, Victorians wake up each day to slower and slower traffic, unreliable train services, more commuter crushes on train platforms, water shortages, growing waiting lists in public hospitals, unsafe streets, and rising violent crime rates.

And yet Labor is still piling on billions of dollars of additional debt over the next few years.

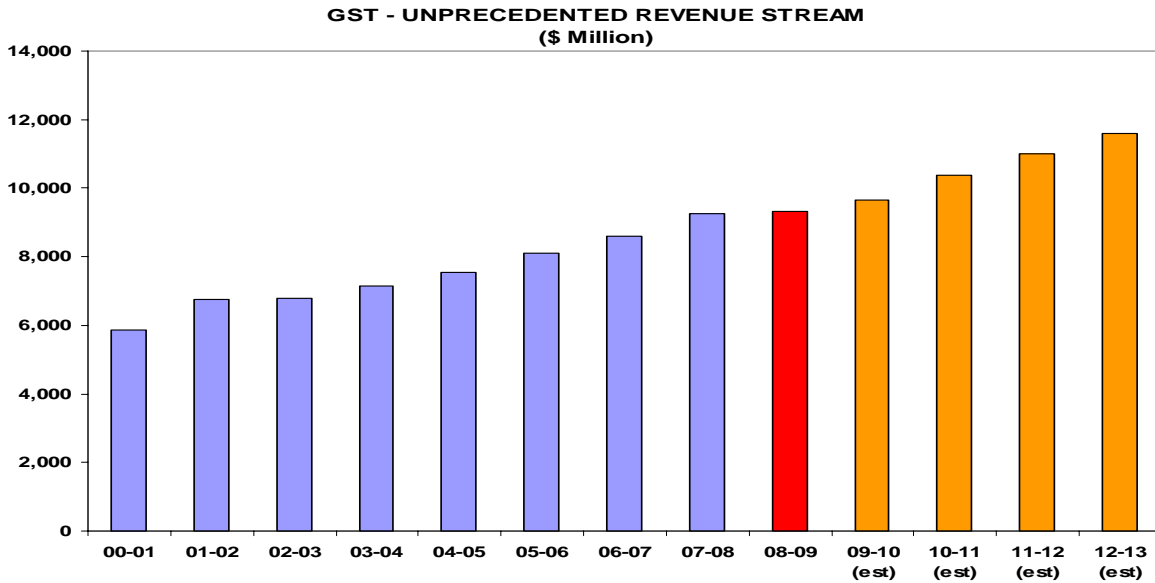
Goods and Services Tax

Labor's record revenue increase has been greatly assisted by the growth of Goods and Services Tax revenues since its introduction in 2000.

By 2012-13, GST revenues will have virtually doubled from \$5.9 billion in 2000-01 to an estimated \$11.6 billion.

Since 2000, total GST revenues have contributed \$69 billion to the Treasury coffers and it is forecast that total GST revenues will exceed \$110 billion by 2012-13.

Chart 2



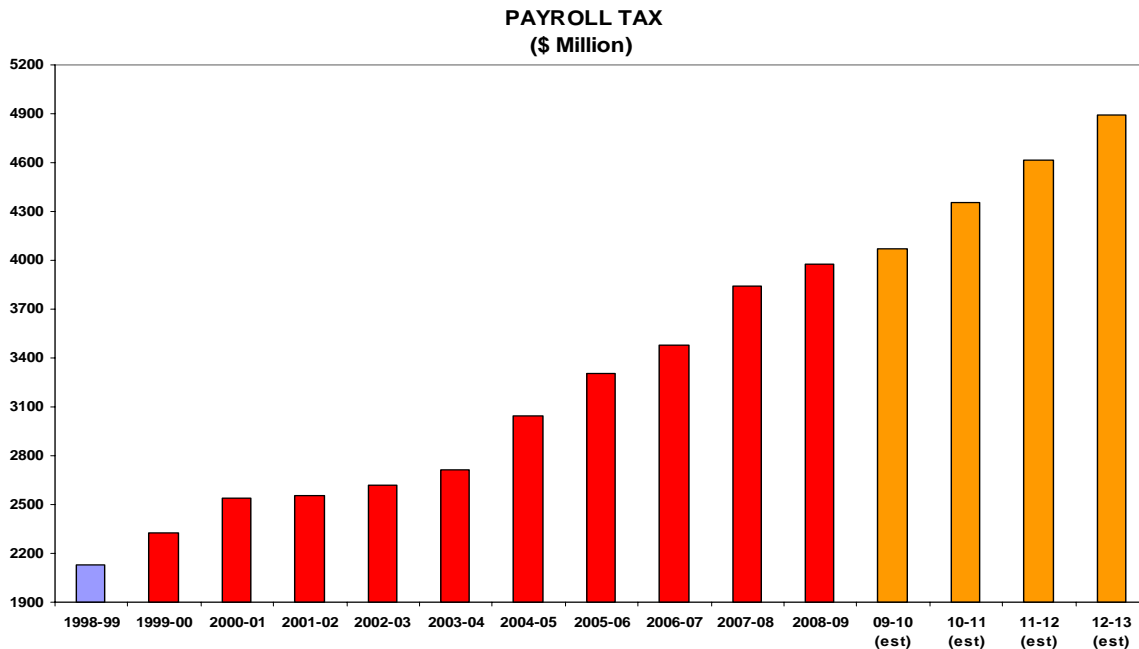
State Taxation

While the GST has been a major contributor to Victoria’s revenue streams, the greatest windfalls have come in the form of record levels of State taxation.

Payroll Tax

The State Labor Government has benefited enormously from record payroll tax revenues of more than \$30 billion since 1999.

Chart 3



Payroll tax will have increased by 95 per cent from \$2.1 billion in 1998-99 to an estimated \$4.1 billion this financial year and is expected to increase by a further 20 per cent to \$4.9 billion by 2012-13.

A major problem confronting Victorian business today is that the payroll tax net has grown increasingly larger under the State Labor Government.

Payroll tax is a direct tax on employment. More and more small businesses are being caught up in the payroll tax net each year due to the low payroll tax threshold in Victoria of \$550,000 per annum – the lowest of any State.

State Comparison of Payroll Tax Thresholds:

Tasmania	\$1,010,000	84 per cent higher
Queensland	\$1,000,000	82 per cent higher
Western Australia	\$750,000	36 per cent higher
New South Wales	\$638,000	16 per cent higher
South Australia	\$600,000	9 per cent higher
Victoria	\$550,000	-

Payroll tax was never originally intended to apply to small to medium businesses, but the Brumby Labor Government's addiction to payroll tax means that SME's are being hit hard.

Further evidence of the Government's payroll tax addiction was revealed in 2003, as then Treasurer, John Brumby, removed the previous long-standing exemption of apprentice and trainee wages from payroll tax.

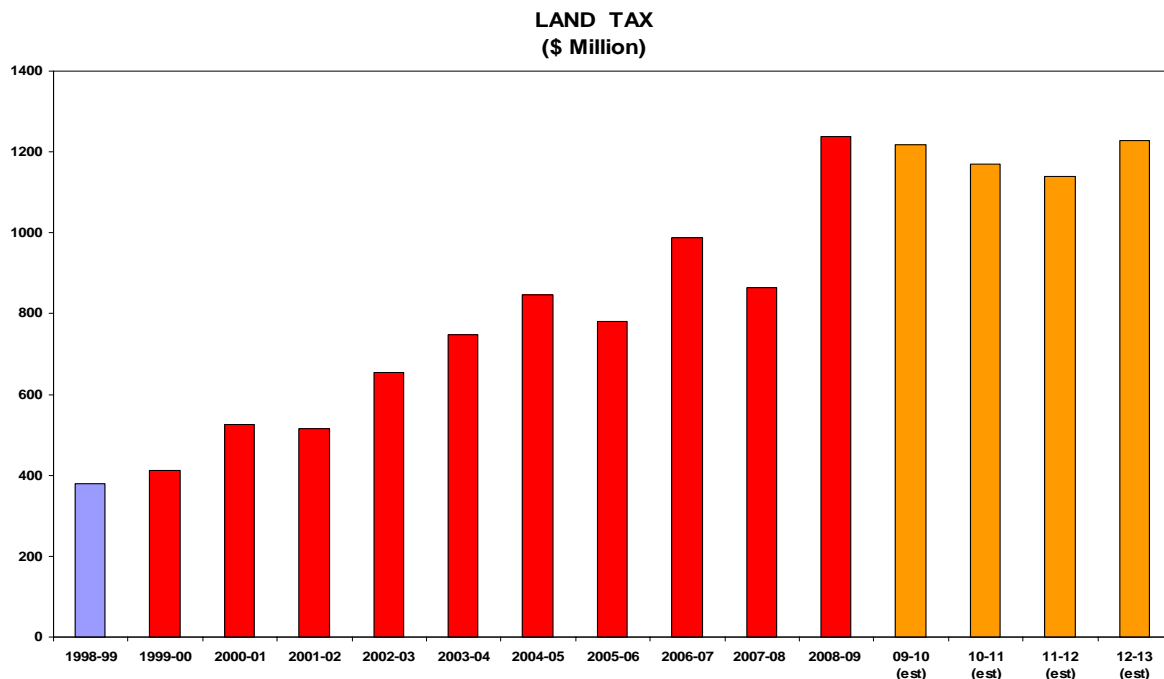
The Coalition believes employers should be supported and encouraged to retain their apprentice and trainee staff, not penalised.

Land Tax

Under John Brumby, State revenue from land tax will have increased 217 per cent from \$378 million in 1998-99 to a forecast \$1.2 billion in 2009-10.

Land tax increases of between 100 and 500 per cent imposed last year threatened jobs and exacerbated the private rental market crisis.

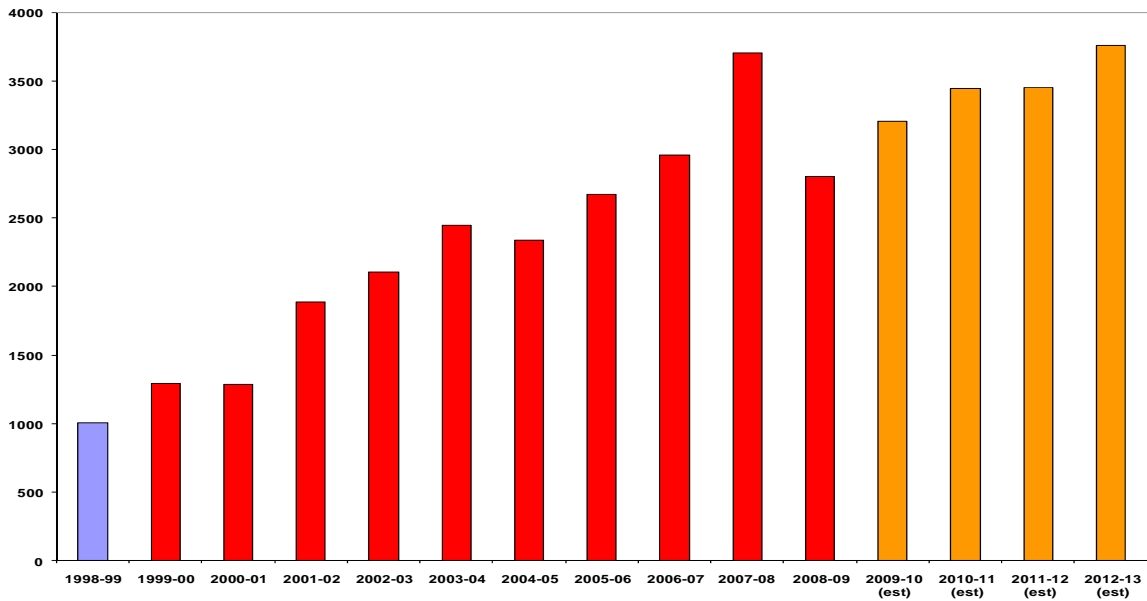
Chart 4



Stamp Duty

Since 1998-99, stamp duty on land transfers will have increased by 220 per cent from \$1 billion to an estimated \$3.2 billion in 2009-10 and by a further 17 per cent to a forecast \$3.8 billion in 2012-13.

Chart 5
STAMP DUTY
(\$ Million)



Melburnians have the dubious honour of paying the highest stamp duty of any capital city.

On a \$524,500 Melbourne median priced home (*REIV March Quarter 2010*), Victorian non-first home buyers would pay \$23,440 in stamp duty compared to \$19,093 (19 per cent less) in NSW, \$9,608 (59 per cent less) in Queensland, and \$22,023 (6 per cent less) in Western Australia.

Despite the Brumby Government's continuing spin and rhetoric, Victorian home buyers are being more heavily taxed than their interstate counterparts.

STATE COMPARISON – STAMP DUTY PAYABLE
(as at 19/04/10, for purchase of a home other than a first home)

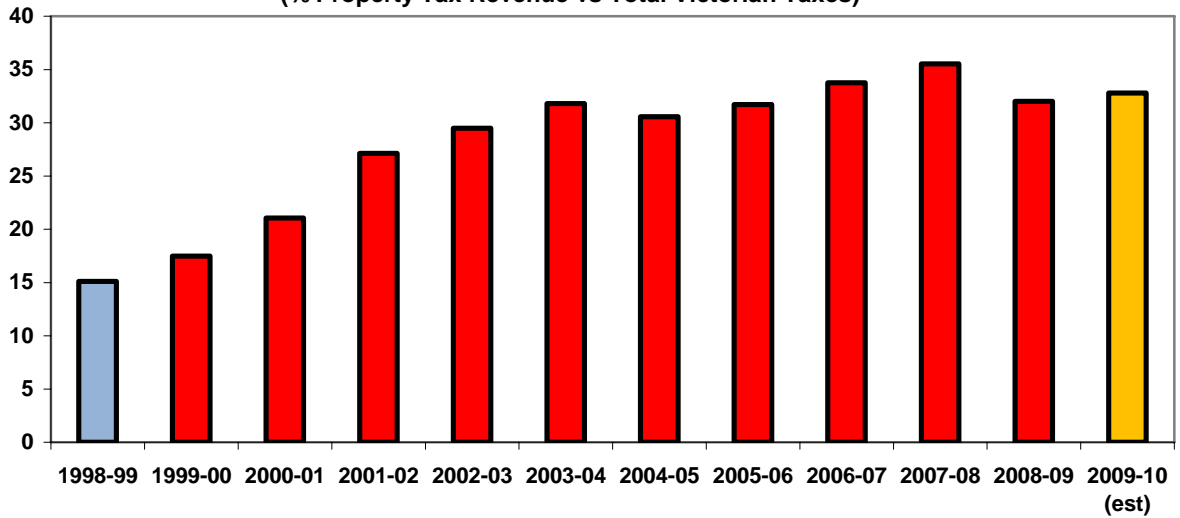
Dutiable Value (\$)	NSW	Victoria	Queensland	WA	SA	Tasmania	Victoria's Rank
200,000	5,490	6,370	2,000	6,200	6,830	5,675	2nd Highest
300,000	8,990	11,370	3,000	10,700	11,330	9,550	Highest
400,000	13,490	16,370	5,250	15,700	16,330	13,550	Highest
500,000	17,990	21,970	8,750	20,700	21,330	17,550	Highest
524,500 #	19,093	23,440	9,608	22,023	22,678	18,530	Highest
600,000	22,490	31,070	12,850	26,100	26,830	21,550	Highest
700,000	26,990	37,070	17,350	31,500	32,330	25,550	Highest
800,000	31,490	43,070	21,850	36,900	37,830	29,550	Highest
900,000	35,990	49,070	26,350	42,300	43,330	33,550	Highest
1,000,000	40,490	55,000	31,000	47,700	48,830	37,550	Highest

\$524,500: REIV's March 2010 quarterly median price for a Melbourne owner occupied detached home.

Source: Respective State Revenue Offices stamp duty rates as published @19/04/10

Chart 6

BUDGET HAS BECOME DEPENDENT ON PROPERTY TAXES
(% Property Tax Revenue vs Total Victorian Taxes)



Under John Brumby the Victorian Budget has grown heavily dependent on property taxes, mainly land tax and stamp duty.

Over a decade this dependency has doubled from 15 per cent of total State taxes to over 30 per cent and is set to rise even further as property prices and valuations increase to record levels and with the possibility that the Government will collect its new development tax in the outer growth corridors.

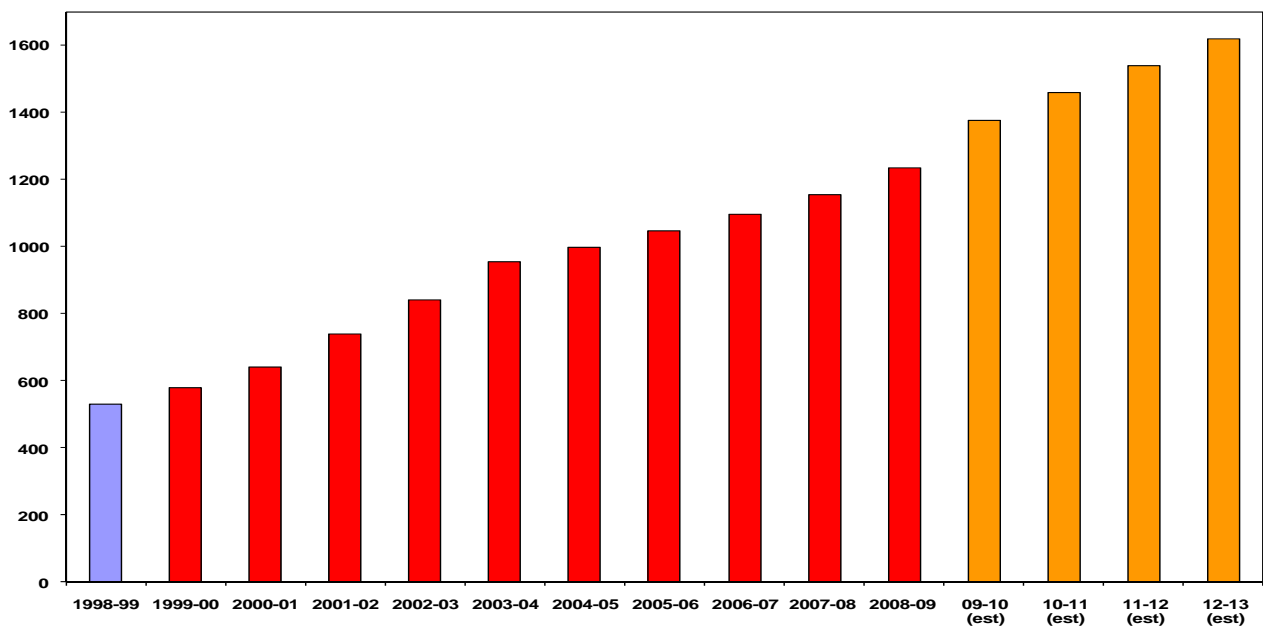
This leaves the Budget more vulnerable than ever to fluctuations in the property market, population growth and potentially to changes to the tax regime flowing from the Federal Government’s Henry tax review.

Insurance Taxes

Since 1998-99, Victorian state taxes on insurance will have increased by over 160 per cent from \$532 million to an estimated \$1.4 billion in 2009-10 and by a further 14 per cent to a forecast \$1.6 billion in 2012-13.

Chart 7

INSURANCE TAXES
(\$ Million)



A major concern with increases in insurance taxes is the ‘triple whammy’ tax effect which applies to residential and commercial property insurance in Victoria.

On top of normal residential and commercial property insurance premiums, a Fire Services Levy (FSL) is collected to pay for the insurance industry’s defined statutory contribution to the funding of fire services across Victoria.

GST is then applied to the combined premium and FSL. Finally, stamp duty is levied on the combined total of premium, FSL and GST.

Due to dramatic increases in the FSL over the past decade, it has been estimated that insurance taxes in Victoria are now among the highest in the world. In fact, in some situations taxes on insurance, including the FSL, can more than double the actual insurance base premiums.

Exacerbated by ever-increasing State taxes led by the FSL, insurance for many Victorians has simply become unaffordable.

And the funding of fire services via the FSL has therefore been increasingly left to a smaller and smaller pool of those Victorians who can still afford to insure.

Evidence provided to the Bushfires Royal Commission suggests that up to 30 per cent of those affected by last year’s devastating Black Saturday bushfires were totally uninsured, while many more were under-insured.

In recognition of this and considerable evidence that the existing FSL system is inequitable and unfair, the Victorian Coalition has committed to reviewing the FSL, pending any recommendations that may arise from the imminent release of the Henry tax review, with a view to implementing a fairer system of funding Victoria’s fire services.

Legal counsel for the Bushfires Royal Commission recently stated that the existing insurance-based FSL was unfair and that the funding of fire services in Victoria required reform.

The Coalition’s commitment is in contrast to the ‘status quo’ approach of the Brumby Labor Government.

Labor's Extra Tax Grab

There have been a total of 26 new or extended taxes, charges and tolls introduced under Labor since 1999.

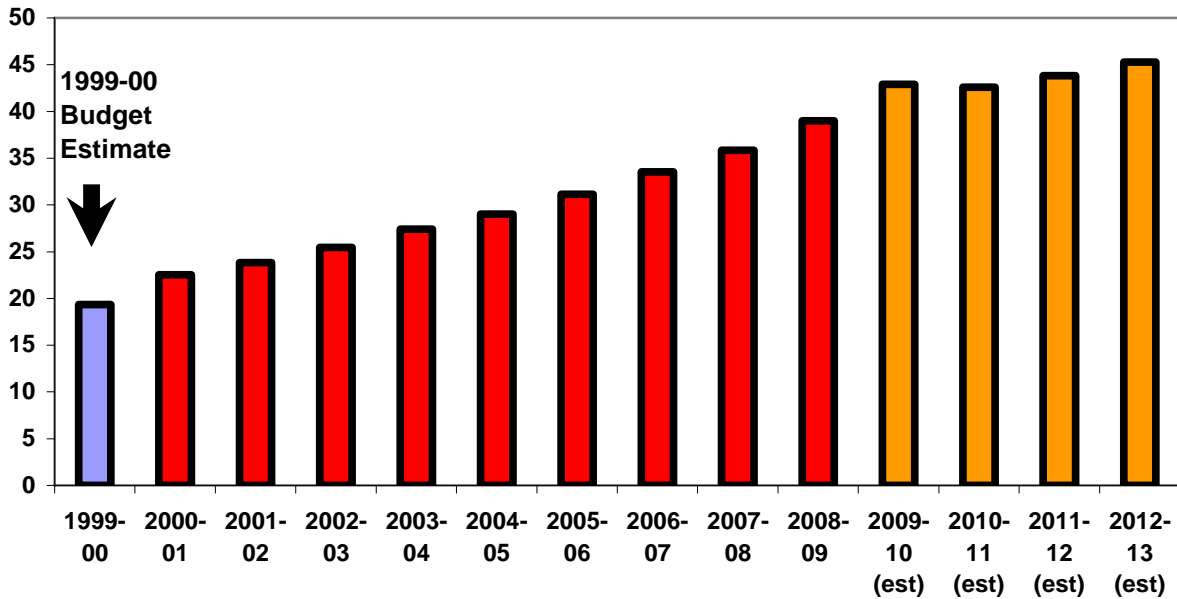
	Labor's New and Extended Taxes/Charges/Tolls	Date of Imposition
1.	Gaming machine levy	2000
2.	Payroll tax on fringe benefits, eligible termination payments, leave etc	2001
3.	HIH levy on domestic building permits	2001
4.	\$50 motorcycle tax	2002
5.	Payroll tax on apprentices & trainees	2003
6.	Stamp duty on mortgage backed debentures	2003
7.	Indexation of fines, fees and charges	2003
8.	Transit City Tax	2004
9.	Stamp duty extensions on land-holding bodies	2004
10.	Payroll tax on employment agencies	2004
11.	5% water levy	2004
12.	\$80 Motor Vehicle Registration charges for pensioners, war veterans and health care card holders	2004
13.	Cap & restrictions on multi-purpose taxis	2005
14.	Increased forestry royalties	2005
15.	Doubling of state royalties/taxes on brown coal	2005
16.	Long Term Parking tax (Congestion Tax)	2006
17.	Land tax on trusts	2006
18.	Land Development Levy	2006
19.	Inbound international airline stamp duty extension	2006
20.	Scoresby Freeway/EastLink tolls	2008
21.	Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (Delayed in Legislative Council 2010)	2009
22.	New stamp duty on leases used to transfer rights in underlying land and/or the economic benefits of the land (Duties Amendment Bill 2008)	2009
23.	Annual Levy on Cemetery Trusts	2009
24.	New risk-based liquor licensing fees	2009
25.	Port Freight Access Charge	2009
26.	New Mine Stability Levy	2009

Budget Spending

The Victorian Budget under John Brumby has seen spending more than double from \$18.2 billion in 1998-99 to an estimated \$42.9 billion in 2009-10.

Chart 8

A DECADE OF EASE - VICTORIA'S BUDGET DOUBLES
(\$ Billion)

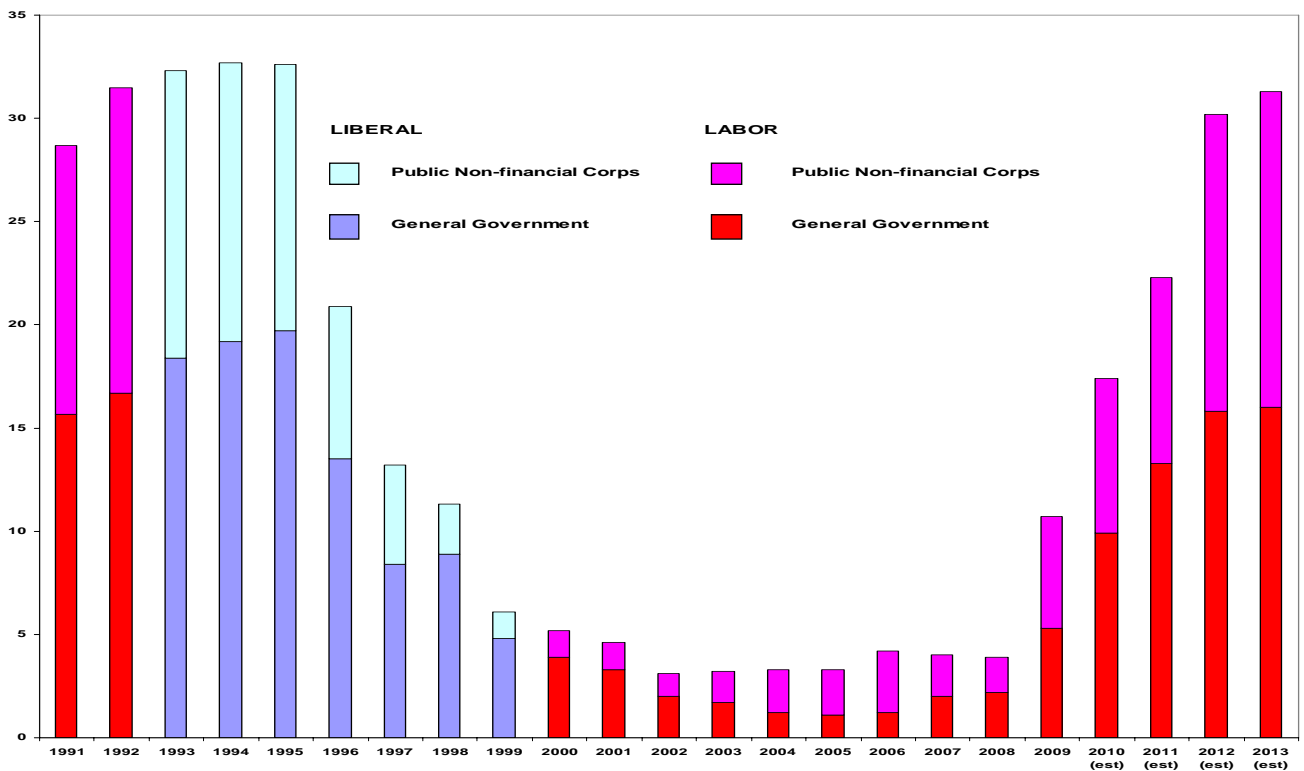


State Debt Spiral

On present estimates, total non-financial public sector net debt in Victoria will reach \$31.3 billion by 2013 from less than \$3.9 billion in 2008.

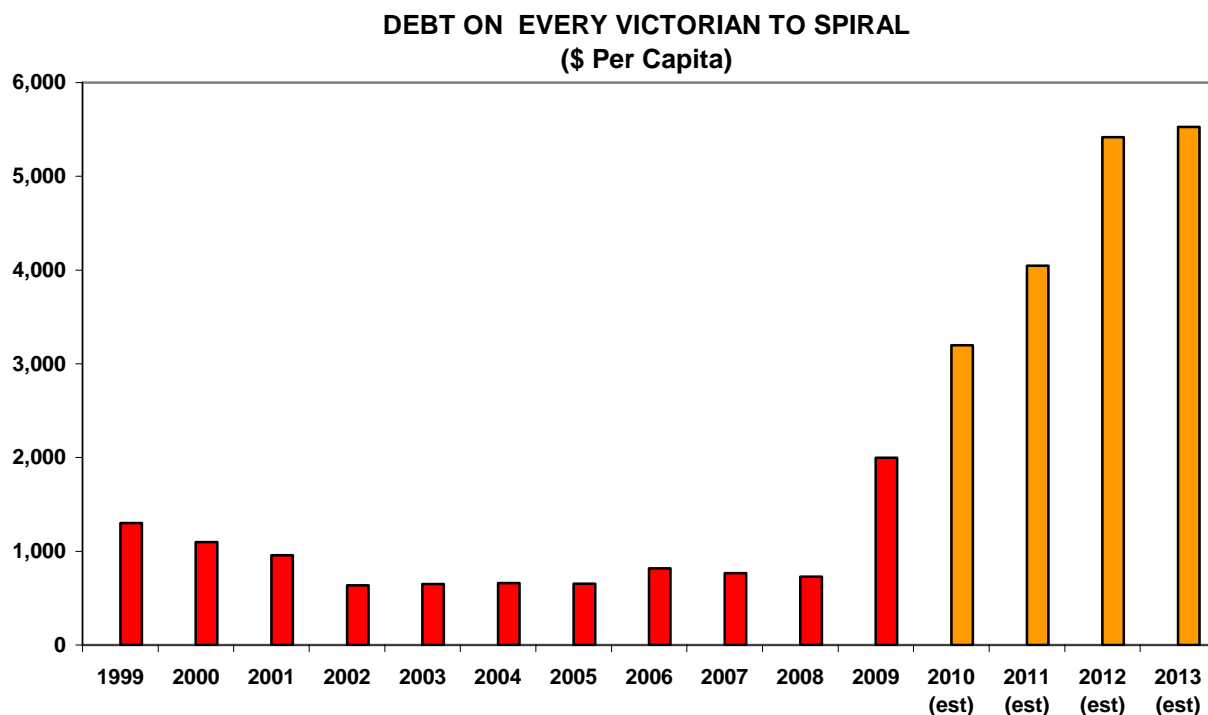
Chart 9

ON THE DEBT ROLLERCOASTER
(Overall Net State Debt - \$ Billion)



Each and every Victorian man, woman and child will see the debt they will have to fund into the future, grow over 650 per cent in five years from \$730 per head in 2008 to nearly \$6,000.

Chart 10



The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition is concerned about the level of rising state debt under John Brumby and the fact that no debt repayment plan has been developed.

Many Victorians will remember the level of State debt accumulated by the financially inept Cain/Kirner Labor Governments of the late 1980's and early 1990's.

The forecast increase in net debt is one of the most rapid increases of public debt in the State's history and returns Victoria to the levels of debt set under the Cain-Kirner Government.

Typically, we now have yet another Labor government rapidly racking up debt with no responsibility for repayment.

In stark contrast to Labor's debt splurge and silence on future repayments, the Coalition last year detailed its proposed criteria for spending options funded by borrowings including the need for a debt repayment plan.

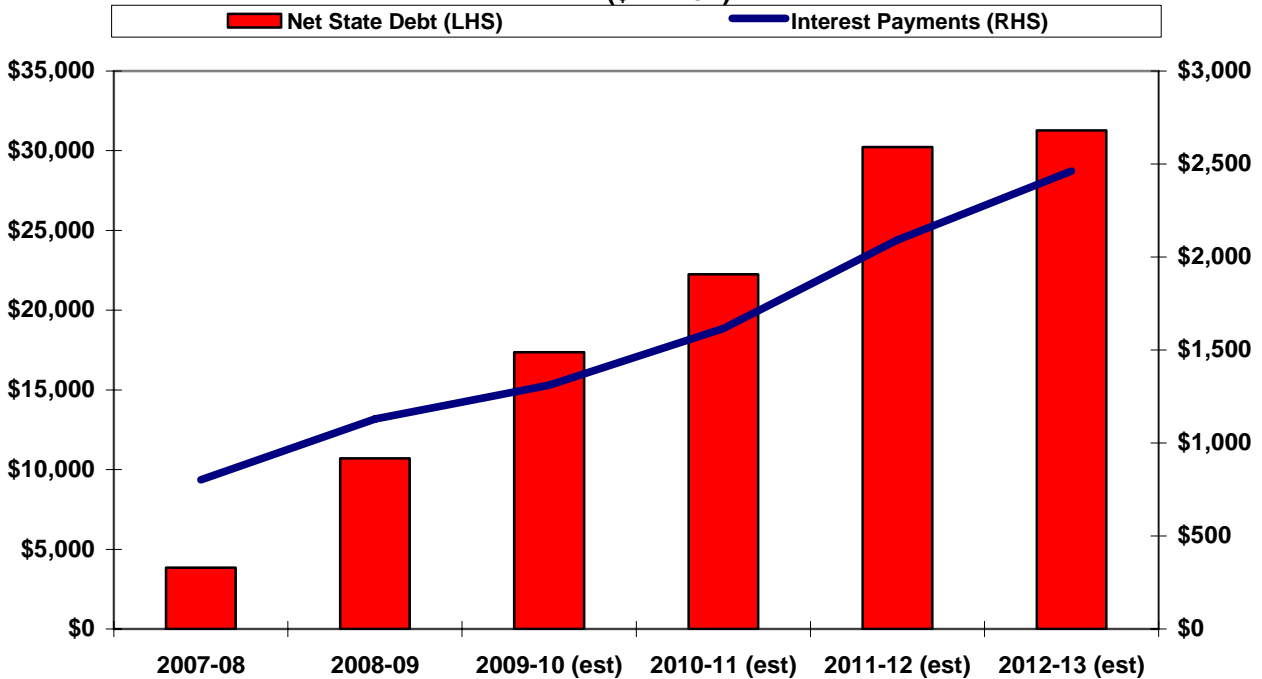
The Coalition's criteria are;

- infrastructure funding and other major financial commitments made by the state must be transparent to the taxpayer;
- debt should not be used to prop up recurrent expenditure in the way it was used by Labor in the 1980s and early 1990s;
- infrastructure projects relying on debt must be individually identified in the budgetary process together with the corresponding increase in debt;
- there must be a rate of return over the life of the project which is realistic and benchmarked against other private and government infrastructure projects;
- there must be a transparent repayment plan for debt associated with infrastructure projects and programs, and it must be audited each year by the Auditor-General; and
- debt accumulated by the Commonwealth for projects normally undertaken by the states must be separately accounted for.

Future generations of Victorians are to be burdened with John Brumby's state debt spiral without any appropriate accountability or transparency, leaving them to pay whilst having little or nothing to show for it.

Chart 11

VICTORIA'S DEBT AND DEBT SERVICING TO SKYROCKET
(\$ Million)



The State's debt servicing interest bill will climb over the next four years to \$2.5 billion by 2013 - an increase of over 200 per cent in five years.

That is \$2.5 billion each and every year that could have been used towards vital infrastructure and services such as bridges, roads, hospitals or more police.

The money saved on this debt interest bill would also have been enough to meet the health funding John Brumby was seeking but failed to get from Kevin Rudd at COAG in Canberra less than a month ago.

The Victorian Economy

The Victorian economy is increasingly reliant on population growth to drive growth and prosperity.

Chart 12 indicates that domestic demand has significantly increased its share of economic growth in line with Victoria's rising population growth.

Victoria's population over the last year has increased 2.2 per cent, 70 per cent of which is due to overseas migration.

Interstate migration is barely positive after registering a general outflow to other States over most of the last decade.

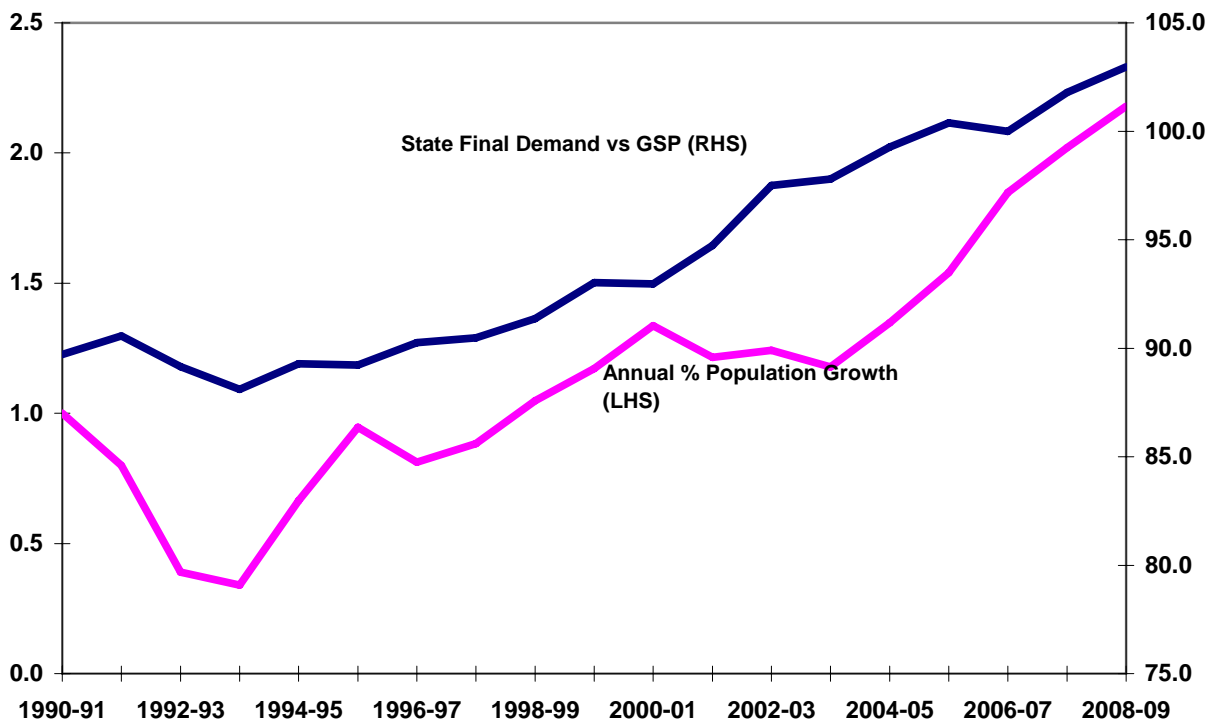
Without population growth Victoria's economic performance would be substantially less healthy.

Population growth has been described by Access Economics in its September Quarter 2009 report as "underpinning" the State's growth.

It does this by basically fuelling demand in the construction industry and the housing industry in particular, as well as household demand.

Chart 12

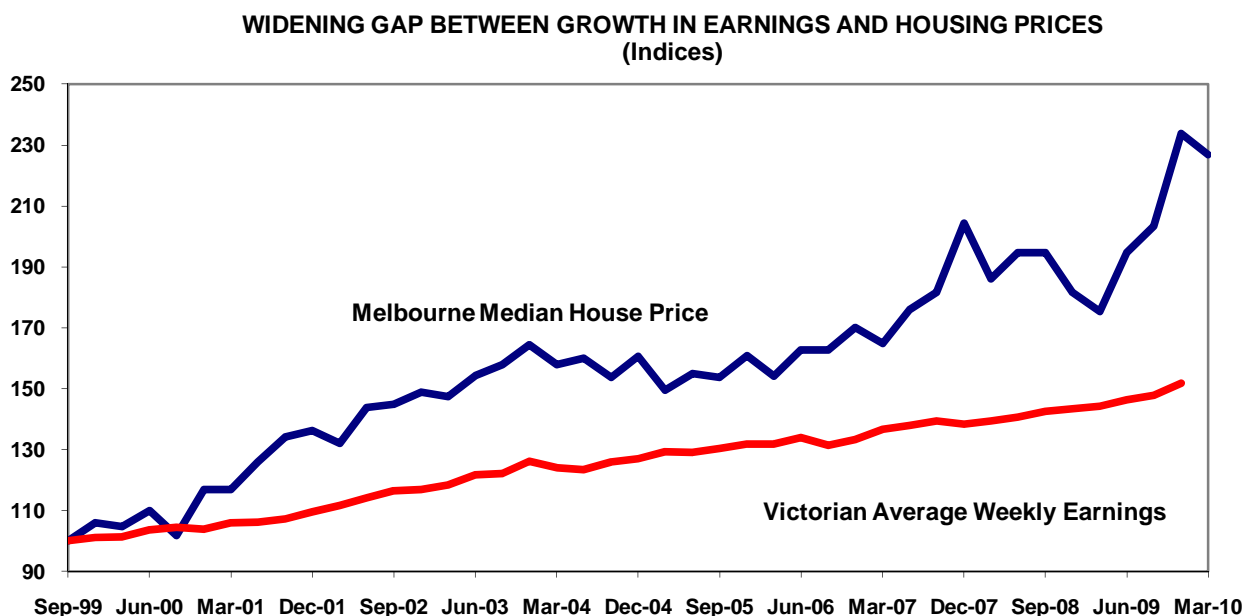
POPULATION GROWTH DRIVES THE ECONOMY



Housing Affordability

Housing unaffordability is now at record levels in Victoria and is set to get worse.

Chart 13



The median house in Melbourne now costs more than eight times the average annual pre-tax wage of some \$63,000 which is making it extremely difficult for first home buyers in particular to enter the market.

According to an international housing affordability survey by Demographia, released in January this year, the average Melbourne household would need to spend over 50 per cent of its annual income to pay for the mortgage on a median-priced house.

The survey found Melbourne housing was "severely unaffordable" - out of 272 cities surveyed, Melbourne was the third most unaffordable.

Housing affordability is approaching levels where many first home buyers and new immigrants will be shut out of the market despite taxpayer incentives.

The principal cause is the Brumby Government's failure to supply new housing blocks in the outer growth areas which is far below what is needed to match demand from population growth.

In 2008 the number of residential lots available for housing was 38 per cent below the levels available five years earlier despite annual population growth rising almost 60 per cent.

Added to this, the price of lots has skyrocketed by 138 per cent from 2000 to 2008 while the Housing Industry Association has reported that the median land price in Melbourne has risen again by 8.5 per cent in 2009.

The Brumby Government has been incapable of increasing the supply of land for homebuyers to keep prices at a reasonable level despite knowing for years about strong population growth.

Meanwhile, under John Brumby, State stamp duty paid on a Melbourne median priced owner occupied home has increased by 125 per cent since 1999 to \$23,440 in the first quarter of 2010.

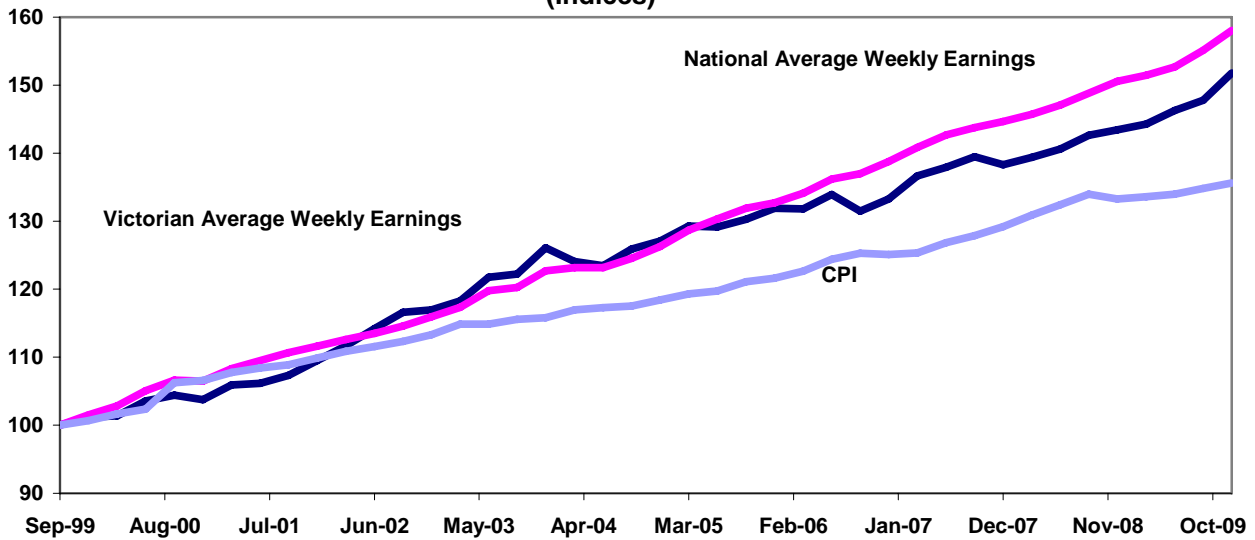
Under the Brumby Government since 2005, the earnings gap between Victoria and the rest of Australia has continued to widen substantially. At the same time prices have also risen to further erode the incomes of families all over the State.

On top of this, the Brumby Government has been raising record taxes from Victorians, further eroding family budgets.

Real incomes in Victoria are lagging the rest of Australia despite John Brumby continuing to maximise his tax take from Victoria's families and businesses.

Chart 14

**WAGES IN VICTORIA LAG THE NATION
(Indices)**



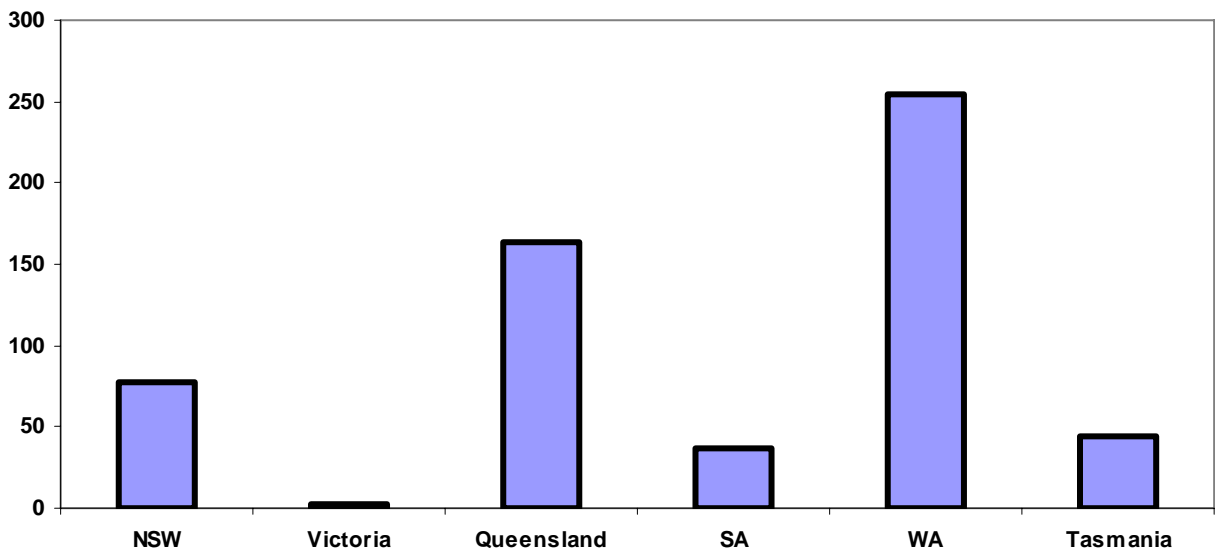
Exports

Victoria's export sector is stagnant after a decade of Labor with export volumes barely matching those in 1999.

In fact, the value of goods exports has risen just 2.8 per cent since 1999 compared to a 118 per cent rise nationally.

Chart 15

**VICTORIA'S EXPORTS LAG THE NATION
(Goods Export % Growth 1999-2010)**

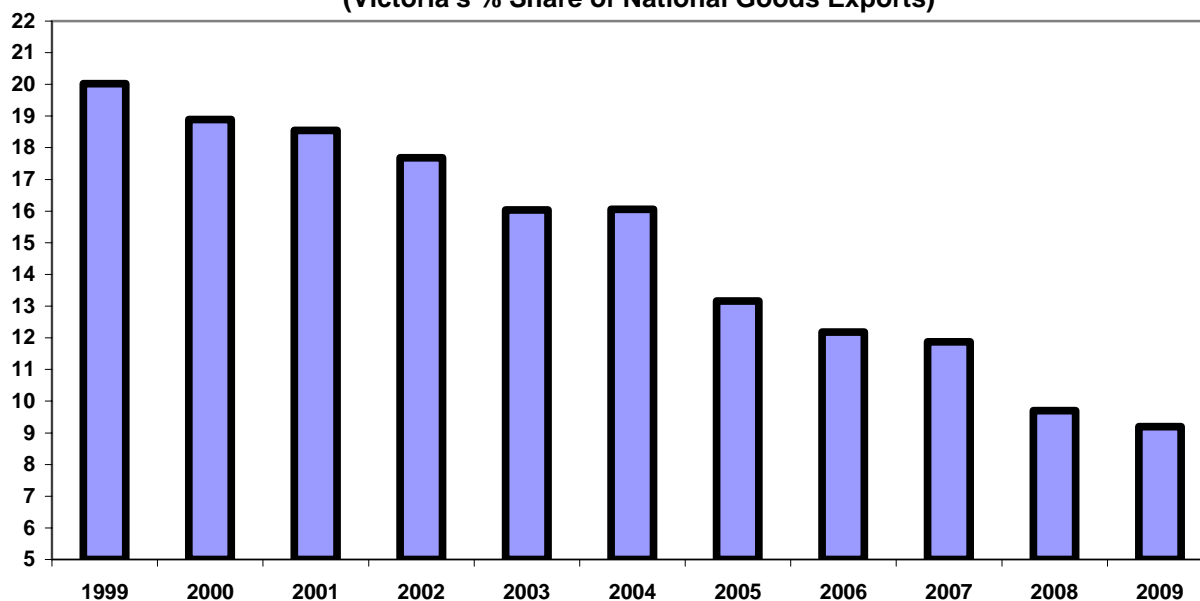


As the CPI has risen nearly 35 per cent in that time, the real value of Victorian exports and the real contribution to the economy has been put into reverse over the decade.

Victoria has lost its position as an export oriented State economy.

To make matters worse, Victoria's share of national merchandise exports has slumped from 20 per cent in 1999 to just 9.2 per cent in 2009 despite resource exports income falling sharply in 2009 during the global financial crisis.

**VICTORIA LOSES ITS EXPORT LEADERSHIP
(Victoria's % Share of National Goods Exports)**



The rest of Australia is now bankrolling the Victorian economy.

While Victorian goods export volumes have risen just 6.5 per cent since 1999, import volumes of goods have risen nearly 80 per cent. If Victoria was a sovereign country it would be in a balance of payments crisis.

But according to the Brumby Government there is not a problem.

Every excuse has been offered from the drought to the global financial crisis – overlooking the fact that every other State has been just as badly affected by these factors if not worse.

Victoria's export slide as the State loses, year after year, more and more productive capacity, economies of scale, expertise and skills.

The Brumby Government has simply failed to get serious about export and trade policy and fix the infrastructure and regulatory blockages impeding our internationally competitive enterprises.

Manufacturing

Much of the deterioration in exports can be put down to the inexorable shrinking of Victoria's manufacturing heartland under Labor.

Over the last decade under a complacent and wasteful State Labor Government, Victoria's manufacturing industry has been in constant decline.

Victoria's manufacturing industry has been hollowed out under John Brumby's leadership. Manufacturing has migrated to other States. In 2009, manufacturing investment in Victoria had fallen 15.8 per cent from the level in 1999 compared to an increase of nearly 32 per cent nationally.

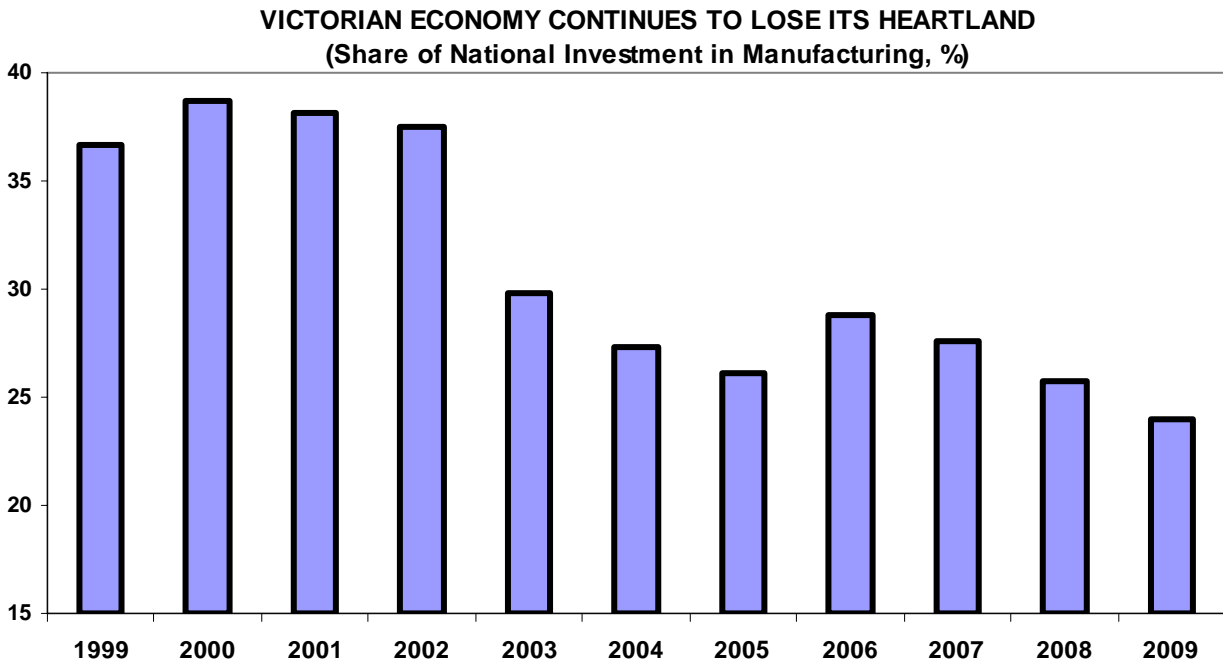
A report commissioned by the Victorian Government in 2009 stated, "Victoria is no longer the premier manufacturing State ... today, manufacturing employs significantly fewer Victorians and makes up a smaller share of GSP than it did in 1980".

Between 1998-99 and 2008-09, manufacturing's share of the Victorian economy has fallen by 32 per cent. In 1998-99 manufacturing represented 16.6 per cent of the Victorian economy. In 2008-09 this had fallen to 11.3 per cent.

Victoria's share of the national manufacturing industry has also drastically fallen from 34.4 per cent in 1999-00 to 28.6 per cent in 2008-09. This closely matches the declining share of Victoria in national investment in manufacturing.

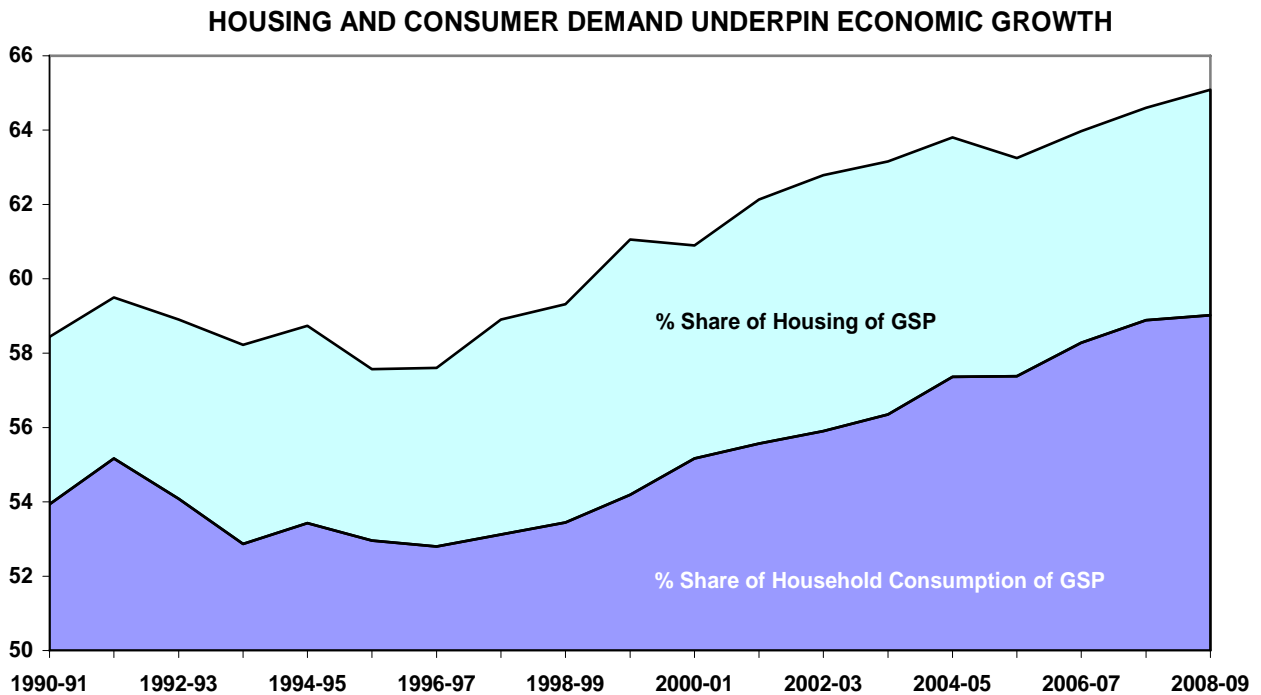
In 1999 Victoria's share of national investment in manufacturing was nearly 37 per cent but this has steadily fallen to reach 24 per cent in 2009.

Chart 17



Housing Industry

Chart 18



While population growth is the Brumby Government’s economic crutch, the housing industry is increasingly the economic driver and sustainer.

Victoria’s economy has gradually lost its greatest strength – its economic diversity – under the Brumby Government.

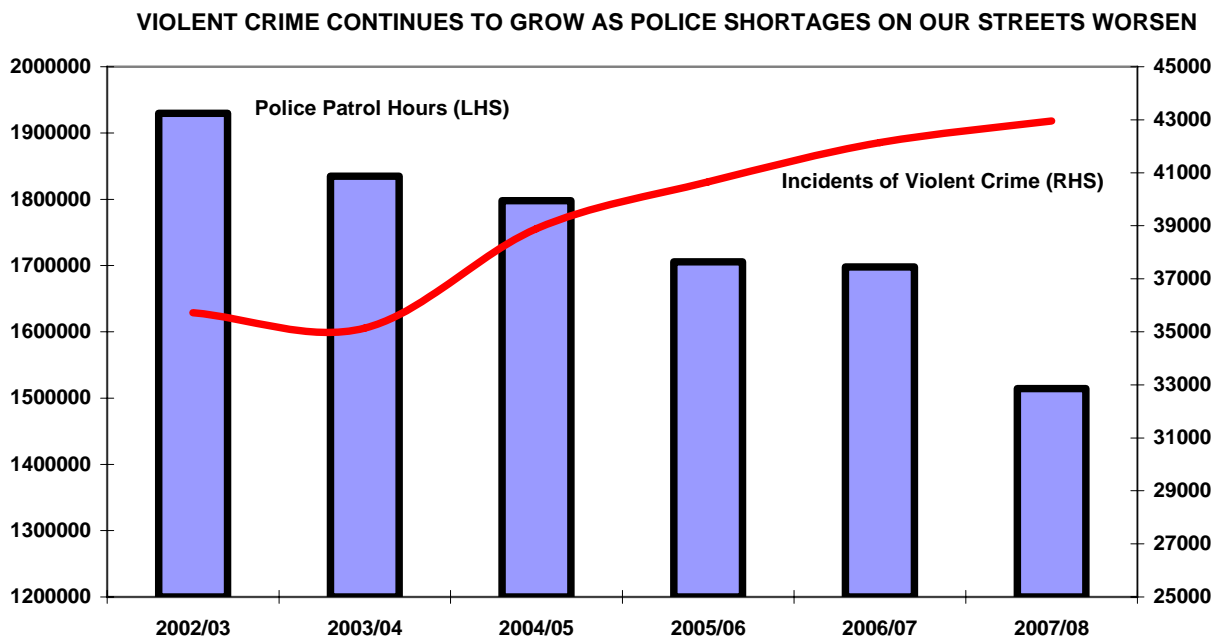
Victoria is becoming a one trick economy and in doing so becomes extremely vulnerable to any fluctuations in population growth and housing.

This growing dependence has further knock-on effects that create severe pressures in other parts of the Victorian economy and community.

FAILING SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER JOHN BRUMBY

Law and Order

Chart 19



2007-08 (Latest Available due to Brumby Government & Victoria Police refusing to disclose patrol hour data)

The incidence of violent crime has hit new records in each of the last four years as police patrols have declined by more than 20 per cent from 1.9 million hours to 1.5 million over the last five years. Police rosters have also revealed there are more than 1,400 officers missing from their frontline positions across Victoria.

The Victorian Ombudsman revealed in 2009 that Victoria’s police crime statistics were not reliable but has nevertheless been used for years by Labor to claim that Victoria has the safest streets in Australia and crime rates are falling. The Ombudsman concluded that crime statistics in Victoria were distorted by the under-reporting of serious crimes, particularly assaults casting serious doubt on the accuracy of crime data.

Despite the distortions in 2008-09, Victoria Police data crimes against the person – reported assaults, violence and threats of violence – actually increased by 1.8 per cent on the previous year. This included increases in homicide, up by 9 per cent; robbery offences involving knives, up by 9.1 per cent; and rate of assault per 100,000 population, by 5.4 per cent and offences up by 7.4 per cent.

Under Labor, assaults and anti-social behaviour have reached record levels on our streets, with violent crime rising by 40 per cent and assaults increasing by 70 per cent.

INCREASE IN CRIME UNDER LABOR IN VICTORIA

	99-00	08-09	% Change
Total Violent Crime (Crime Against the Person)	31,372	43,971	Up 40.2%
Assault	19,856	33,668	Up 69.6%
Rape	1,170	1,543	Up 31.9%
Weapons / Explosives	4,554	7,142	Up 56.8%
Property Damage	38,360	54,122	Up 41.1%

Source: Victoria Police Crime Statistics

The escalating problem with violence around Melbourne’s nightclubs and bars can be directly linked to the lack of available frontline police to maintain an adequate continuous presence on the streets.

A Victorian Coalition understands something has to be done. That is why it has committed to boosting

frontline police by an additional 1,700 recruits in the first term of government, to end the chronic State-wide police shortages and restore public safety in metropolitan and regional communities.

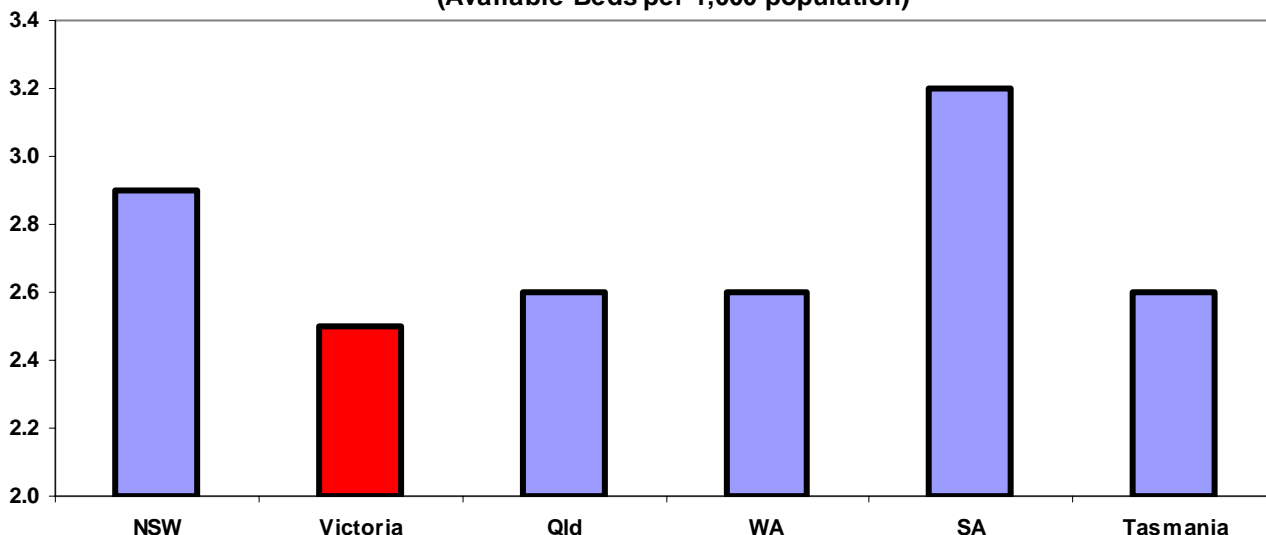
In addition, the Coalition has a plan to make our train stations safe again with a dedicated unit of 940 fully trained professional Victoria Police PSOs providing blanket coverage and protection at train stations every night. The Coalition will recruit 100 additional Victoria Police officers to join the Transit Safety Division bringing to 350 the total number of officers patrolling the entire train, tram and bus networks at all times.

Labor has run out of ideas and energy to tackle crime in our streets. All it can do is react to the Coalition’s lead. It is time for a better approach.

Health and Hospitals

Chart 20

**FEWEST HOSPITAL BEDS IN AUSTRALIA
(Available Beds per 1,000 population)**



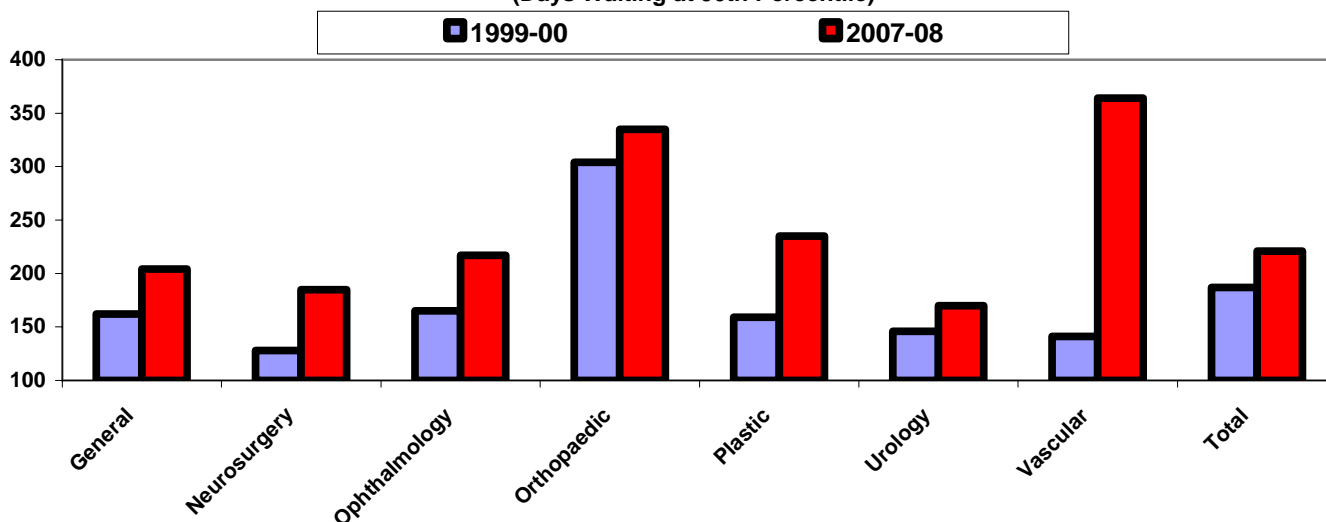
Victoria has the fewest hospital beds available for every man, woman and child in Australia.

In Victoria today, nearly 38,400 people are currently waiting on public lists for elective surgery, with countless more Victorians on hidden waiting lists.

Delays in obtaining treatment are growing alarmingly – when Labor was elected in 1999, a patient would wait an average of 35 days for semi-urgent surgery, but today that figure has blown out to 50 days. The following chart shows that Victorians are waiting far longer for important elective surgeries after nearly a decade of Labor.

Chart 21

**MANY ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES SURGE OVER THE DECADE
(Days Waiting at 90th Percentile)**



* 2007-08 Latest Available Data

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Victoria can no longer claim to have the best-performing hospitals in Australia.

Emergency departments are overflowing with a record number of Victorians walking out rather than waiting hours for care, hospital waiting lists have been systematically manipulated and we have the highest rate of unplanned patient re-admissions in the nation.

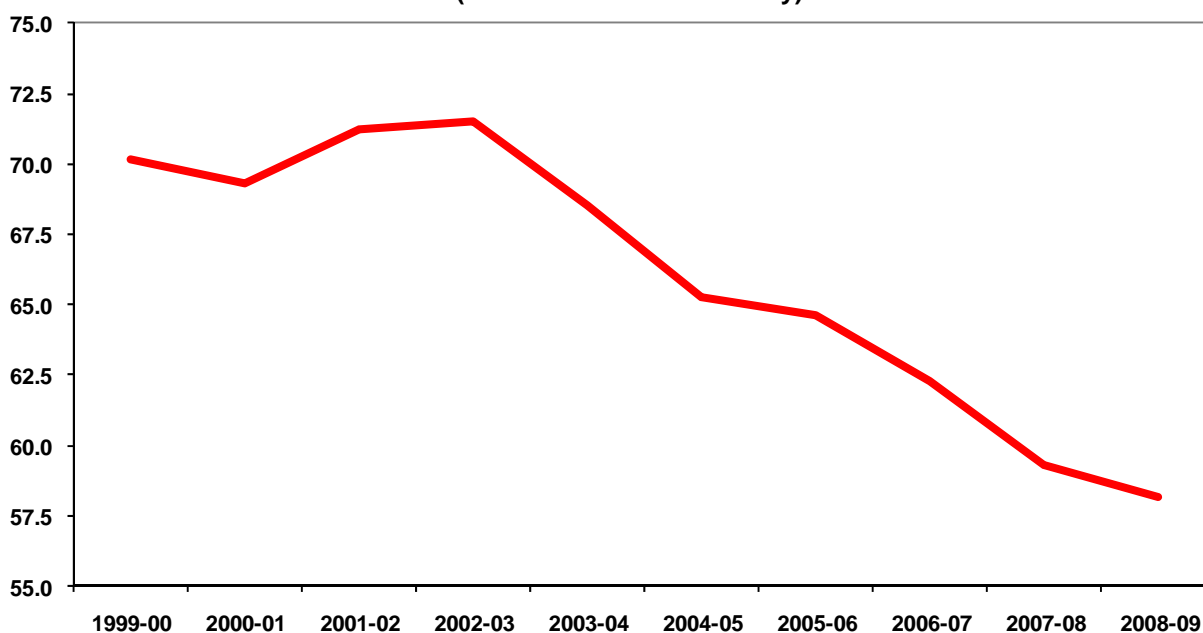
The Coalition proposed to direct \$1 billion from the auction of gaming machine licences to establish a Health Infrastructure Fund.

This funding would provide additional beds, and other vital investments in health and hospital funding, to start reducing waiting lists and the pressure on emergency departments.

Public Transport and Roads

Chart 22

**TRAIN SERVICES GO DOWNHILL
(Public Satisfaction Survey)**



Patronage has increased on Melbourne's trains but there has been a huge lack of planning and investment in the train system over the decade of Labor. Crowded trains and train platforms, systemic delays and cancellations across the train system, rising safety concerns, unreliability and customer dissatisfaction reflect failed infrastructure planning.

It is no coincidence that the public's level of dissatisfaction with the train system mirrors the deterioration in service standards.

Promised new trains are arriving at a trickle and are further delayed in coming into service by safety concerns and technical problems that should have been sorted out before they arrived in Melbourne.

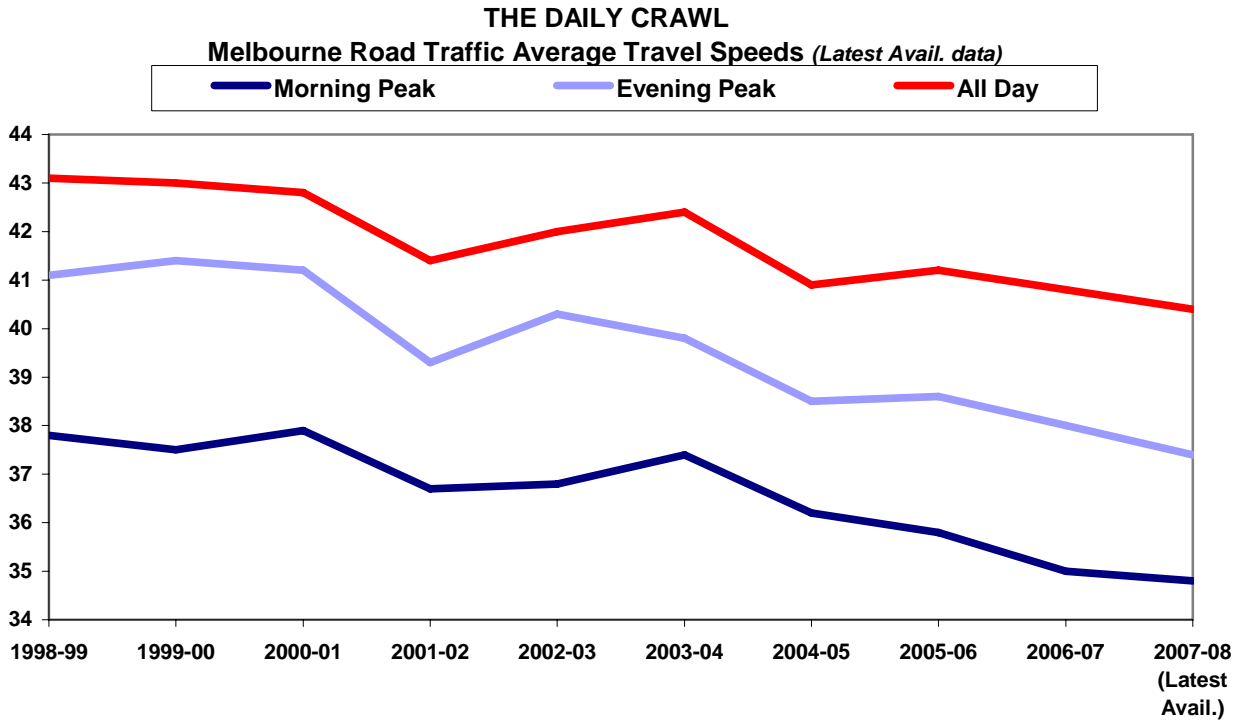
Melbourne's new train operator Metro warned the Brumby Government in 2009 that the traction power system used by Melbourne's 165 electric trains was 'overloaded' and that it 'posed serious safety concerns for operators'. This adds to other concerns revealed in Metro's Asset Management Plan about passengers in danger of trains derailing or having a 'catastrophic' collision with structures on the Belgrave, Frankston, Hurstbridge and Pakenham lines due to lack of replacement or repair.

John Brumby said when Metro was announced as the new operator that, "*Train passengers will notice the changes in their experience from day one*". John Brumby Media Release, 23 September 2009. However, that promise has now been ditched with Metro already failing to achieve its new and lower performance benchmarks for service reliability.

The Transport Ticketing Authority overseeing the disastrous myki smartcard project is absorbing more resources on myki than is being spent on Kamco who are trying to build and run the system. This is yet another indication of the huge waste and mismanagement in this project which is already more than \$800 million over budget, three years overdue and still not operating as it was originally intended.

Under John Brumby, Victorians will have to resign themselves to more delays, cancellations, overcrowding and frustration because of Labor's mismanagement and incompetence.

Chart 23



Since Labor was elected in 1999, the average road traffic speeds around the greater Melbourne area have steadily declined as congestion has grown. Commuters, trades people, commercial transport and delivery, all vehicles are travelling longer and longer to get to their destinations each day.

The rising traffic delays and congestion on our roads is time lost to families, money lost to commerce and higher costs for businesses all over Melbourne.

The M1 upgrade was supposed to cut travel times but poor design has actually increased travel times for morning rush hour traffic going to the south-east.

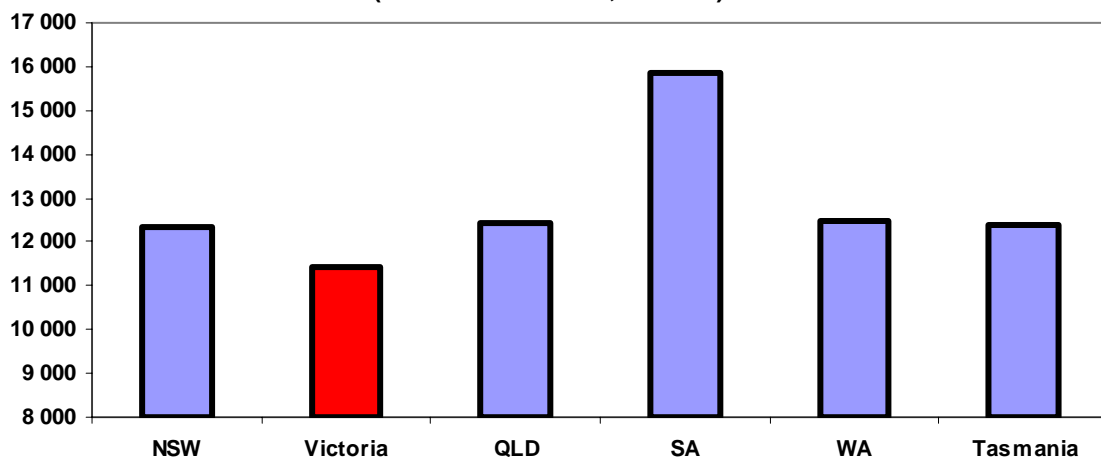
Labor's draconian policy of extension of clearways times has done nothing to improve traffic flow but has done enormous damage to businesses along the clearways.

Five traffic plans have been produced by Labor since 1999. None of them have been able to relieve traffic congestion and no solution is in sight with most of the projects in the latest plan unlikely to even be started until after 2015.

Education and Training

Chart 24

VICTORIA SPENDS LESS ON EACH STUDENT THAN ANY OTHER STATE
(\$ Per FTE Student; 2007-08)

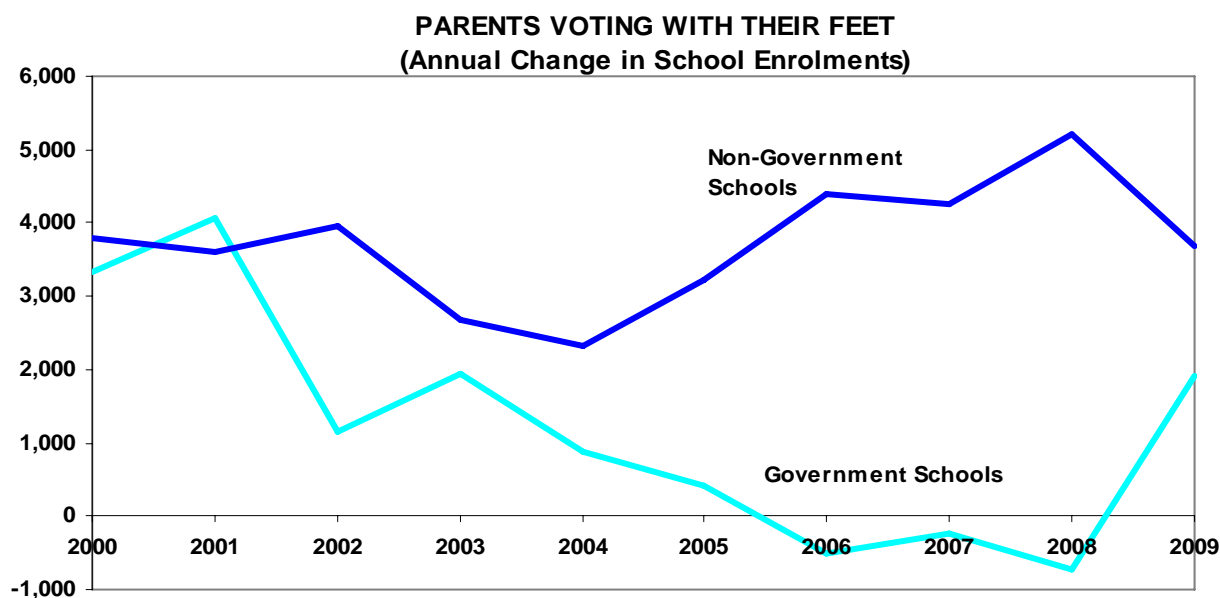


Victoria has not undergone anything near an educational revolution under the Brumby Government. Instead, Victoria has become the State that spends the least on its public school students in Australia.

Schools continue to suffer a huge maintenance backlog. There is increasing violence and bullying in schools. There is considerable concern over misallocation, misappropriation and cost overruns by the Victorian Education Department in the management of Kevin Rudd's Building the Education Revolution projects.

Confusion has worsened in schools with increasing red tape and bureaucratic requirements imposed by a progressively more centralised Department of Education. And there is a diminishing ability of school principals and communities to make the education decisions that best suit the needs of children and their communities.

Chart 25



After 3 consecutive years of falling enrolments there was a small rise in government school enrolments in 2009 of 1917 students or less than 0.4 per cent. This was not surprising given the rise in unemployment and increased pressure on household budgets from the effects of the global financial crisis.

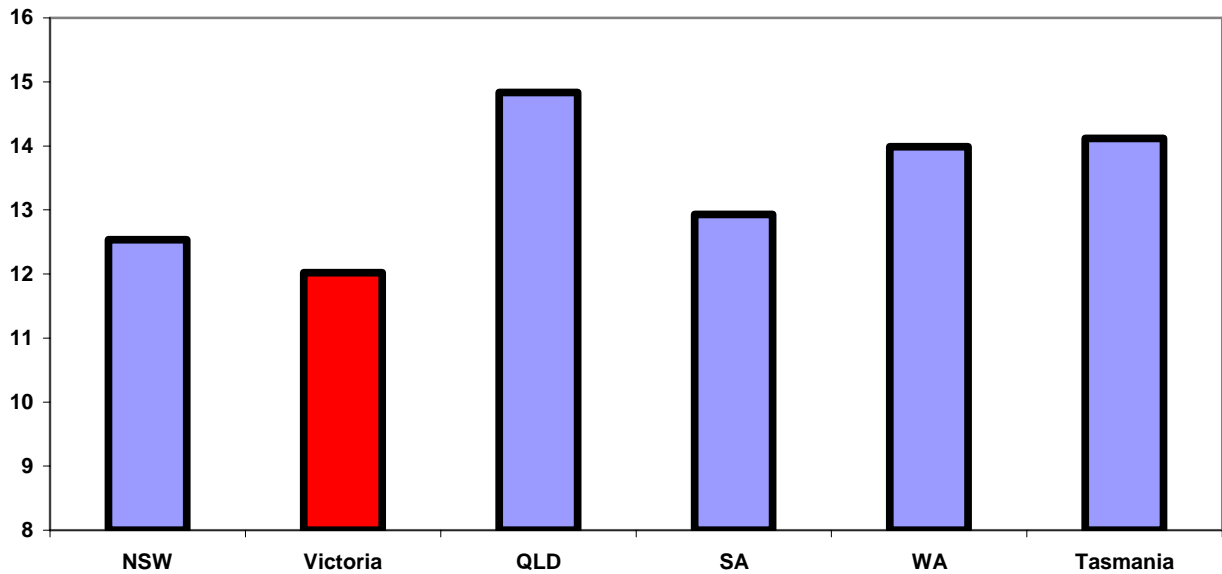
Enrolments in non-government schools again increased strongly by 3674 students or 1.2 per cent. However, the trend is clear. Over the last decade government school enrolments have grown by only 2.3 per cent despite a period of strong population growth and a rising birth rate. Over the same period non-government school enrolments have risen by nearly 14 per cent.

Labor has made promise after promise on education but the most basic promises are empty. The 2006 Labor Policy Election Platform set out Labor's priorities for the future which stated that, "90 per cent of young people in Victoria will successfully complete Year 12 or an equivalent training qualification by 2010." Summary School Statistics for Victorian Schools for March 2010 show that only 80 per cent of young people successfully completed Year 12 or gained equivalent qualifications – four years after Labor promised that it was its priority for the future.

Labor is failing Victoria's children. Victoria has the lowest basic skills level of the mainland States according to the OECD's most recent analysis of educational outcomes in Australia. There is no prospect of this changing under Labor.

Chart 26

**BRUMBY SPENDS LESS AND LESS ON TAFE
(Spending per Annual Hour; \$ per hour 2008)**



The Brumby Government continually talks about the vital role played by the vocational sector and yet over the last decade Victoria has consistently spent less on TAFE training than any other State in Australia and continues to do so.

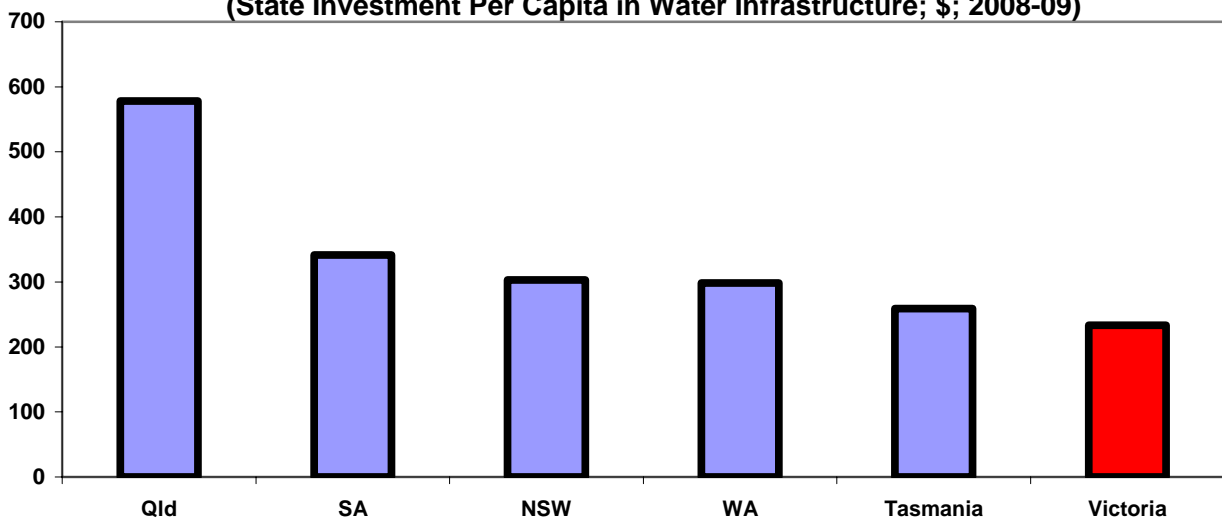
In 2008 the Brumby Government announced increased fees across the TAFE system that came into effect in June 2009, making the absurd claim that this would ‘reform’ the State’s training system. Labor raised fees for training at a time of rising unemployment when many more people are seeking new training to enter or re-enter the workforce.

The fee hikes have had the precise effect that the Coalition warned would happen. Many TAFE courses have suffered falls in enrolments in 2010 across the system as the fee rises have prevented many young and mature students taking up vocational training. Enrolments in 2010 have fallen by as much as 45 per cent in Melbourne and by 60 per cent in regional Victoria, all of which can be attributed to Brumby’s misguided vocational ‘reforms’.

Water

Chart 27

**INVESTMENT IN WATER LAGS THE NATION
(State Investment Per Capita in Water Infrastructure; \$; 2008-09)**



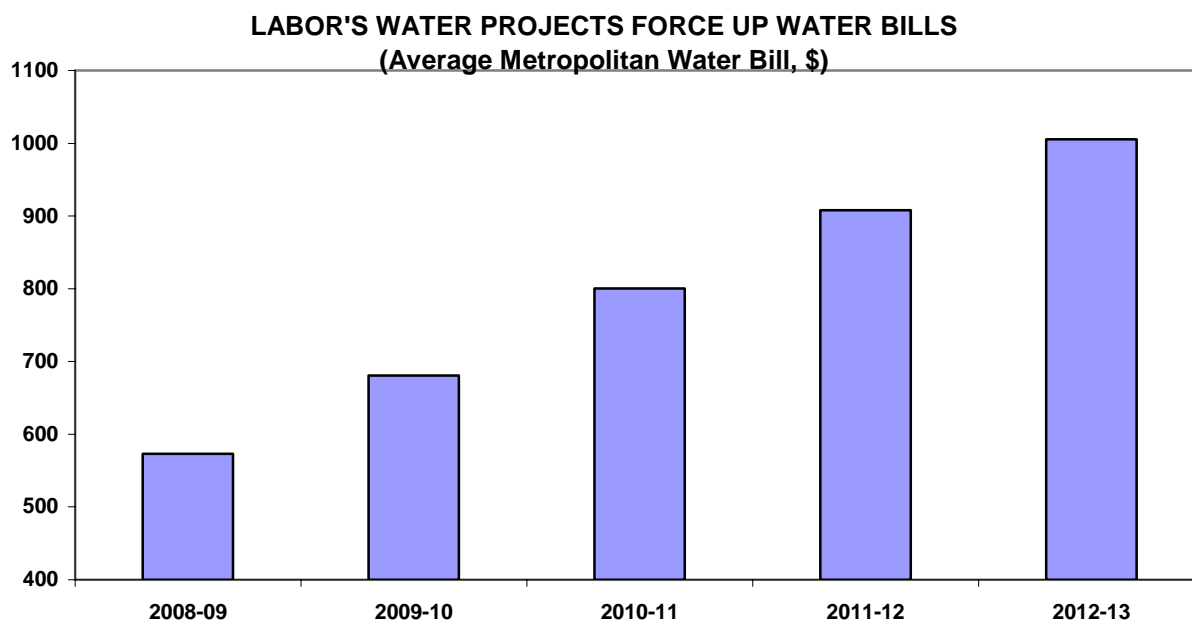
Water is central to every aspect of life and the economy in Victoria. Despite Victoria being in drought for a decade it took until 2007 before Labor produced any substantial initiatives to combat water shortages. Even then, it was the wrong strategy.

A leaked expert report commissioned by the Brumby Cabinet shows that only weeks before Labor's 2007 water plan was announced, it was recommended that one of the crucial projects in that plan, the north-south pipeline, should not go ahead. It further recommended that the Wonthaggi desalination plant would have been better put elsewhere.

Only weeks ago the Foodbowl Modernisation Project with its North-South pipeline was rubbished by Australia's top economists and water experts who noted the project was based on "spurious" claims and will result in the waste of hundreds of millions of taxpayers' money. The experts say taxpayers are parting with four times the funds necessary to provide more water for the city and the environment. Alistair Watson, one of Australia's most respected agricultural experts, said fellow economists were now calling the project "the northern dog".

Despite the billions that are being spent on the north-south pipeline project and the Wonthaggi desalination plant, last year Victoria still spent less per head of population on developing its water infrastructure than any other State – after 13 years of drought.

Chart 28



John Brumby's water policy will now push up water bills sharply over the next decade to pay for the very costly projects that are the centrepiece of this inappropriate and misplaced policy.

As one water expert stated earlier this year, "At the end of the day we will all pay because we will have fewer hospitals and fewer schools and a whole heap of irrigation infrastructure that will sit there like a giant white elephant." (La Trobe University water expert Professor Lin Crase).

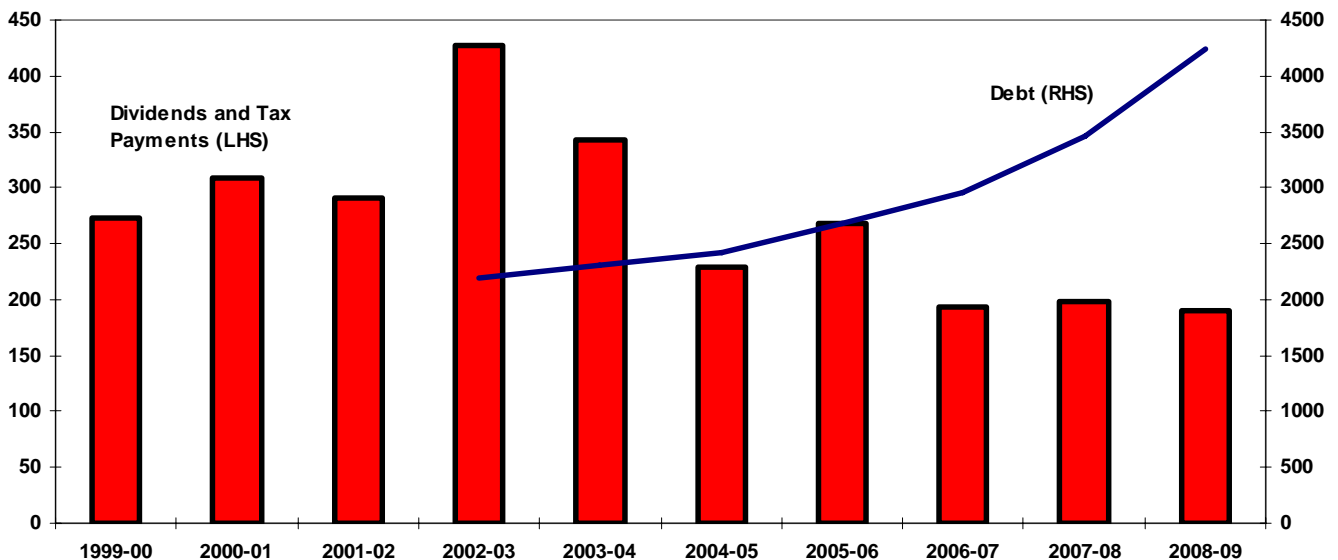
Water bills are already putting massive pressure on household budgets but this is only the start as the cost of the government's projects start to affect water authorities budgets. Prices charged to consumers will rise by up to 60 per cent over the next four years and it does not matter if it rains enough to ease Melbourne's water situation.

Even when these projects come online, according to the Government's own modelling, some form of water restrictions will remain in place until at least 2013.

The situation has been worsened by Labor forcing water authorities to borrow yet more money to undertake maintenance and vital infrastructure, while also paying dividends.

Chart 29

PAYMENTS TO LABOR FORCE UP METRO WATER AUTHORITY DEBT
(\$ Million)



Country Victoria

After more than ten years in power, the Brumby Labor Government has no coherent vision for country Victoria.

The centrepiece of Labor's regional development policy is a series of grant programs, the principal one being the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

RIDF has funded many worthwhile projects in rural and regional Victoria, however the Brumby Government's mismanagement of RIDF has meant the Fund has failed to deliver its full potential to regional communities.

Underspending in regional programmes

Unacceptable delays in the allocation of funds and systemic underspending of funding earmarked for regional communities have been all too commonplace.

Over the 10 years to 1 July 2010, \$611 million has been allocated to RIDF. As at the 30 June 2009 the government had only spent \$382.7 million. Information obtained through FOI suggests that a further \$26.6 million has been spent in the 6 months July to December 2009. Thus total expenditure to 31 December 2009 is \$409.3 million – a paltry 67% of the total funds allocated to 30 June 2010.

As at 30 June 2009, the Government had "committed" \$466 million from RIDF – again well short of the total allocation of \$610 million. If the total RIDF funding of \$610 million is to be fully utilised by June 2010 a total of \$144 million will need to be allocated to projects this financial year. This is considerably more than the government has allocated from RIDF in the past and well above the amount of \$84.6 million the government anticipated spending in the 2009/10 Budget papers.

The reality is a large amount of money in RIDF will remain unallocated and unspent in country Victoria at the end of this financial year when the program is due to conclude.

Higher Taxes

The cost of living and doing business in country Victoria has increased under the Brumby Government.

For example, in regional and rural Victoria, the Fire Services Levy on business insurance premiums has increased from 47 per cent in 2006 to 84 per cent in 2009 – an increase of 78 per cent. In the same period, the FSL for metropolitan businesses has remained steady at around 50 per cent.

Costs are exacerbated by GST and stamp duty which apply to the FSL. The combination of these taxes has more than doubled the price of business insurance in regional Victoria.

Country householders have also been slugged by inequitable FSL increases. In 2006, country householders paid a 22 per cent FSL while they now pay 31 per cent. The levy on Melbourne household insurance is currently 20 per cent – one per cent less than it was three years ago.

Under funding regional Education

Regional and rural schools and teachers do a great job in our local communities but over the past ten years Labor has failed to give them the funding and resources they need.

Under Labor, country high school retention rates – or the percentage of students remaining at high school until year 12 – have fallen from 72 per cent in 2002 to 67 per cent in 2009. During the same period, metropolitan schools have remained steady at 85 per cent.

When Labor came to power in 1999, Victoria's education funding per person was the second highest of any state, but Victoria now spends the least on education per person of any state.

Food Security

Labor has cut expenditure in Victoria's food security and food producing industries. In August 2008, the Brumby Government sacked 70 DPI staff and closed five agricultural research facilities in regional Victoria.

Since this time Labor has also axed support for locust control, fruit fly and other important control programs.

Bushfire Preparation

The Brumby Government has failed to prepare country Victoria for the threat of bushfires.

Over the last decade, Labor has ignored numerous recommendations that preventative burning in Victoria be drastically increased. Instead, the 2009 Budget showed that Labor has presided over an 11 per cent decrease in preventative fire funding in the last two years.

Conclusion

After eleven years of State Labor and John Brumby, Victorians are quite rightly asking, where has all our money gone because we have little to show for it?

John Brumby's poor stewardship, first as Treasurer and now as Premier, of an unprecedented record revenue inflow of more than \$340 billion and accumulated surpluses of almost \$12 billion over those eleven years, represents a missed generational opportunity to position Victoria for a bright and prosperous future.

In reality, government services and infrastructure continue to fail and crumble.

John Brumby and State Labor have failed Victorians for over a decade and they continue to wait for improved basic services and infrastructure in law and order, public transport, roads, water, energy, education and health services.

Further, net state debt is forecast to spiral to a deeply concerning \$31 billion in just three years with absolutely no repayment plan in sight and a heavy burden for future generations to pay back; housing affordability is now a major issue affecting the lives of many young Victorians and families; the state economy has significant structural problems being too narrowly reliant on population growth and the housing sector; and as a result, Victorians are now faced with great uncertainty.

John Brumby and the State Labor Government are now marked by complacency, arrogance and a virtual paralysis of decision making, policy development and implementation and its list of failures and excuses continues to grow by the day.

However, John Brumby and his tired and out of touch Labor government should be long remembered by Victorians for one pivotal but defining characteristic - the complete and utter absence of ministerial and government accountability for their litany of failures.

Public accountability has fallen by the way side and has been replaced by constant media spin and hundreds of millions of dollars in blatant political government advertising to gloss things over.

Victorians deserve better than John Brumby's decade of failure.

Chart Sources

1. RECORD TAXES AND GRANTS PRODUCE UNPRECEDENTED REVENUE WINDFALL
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
2. GST – UNPRECEDENTED REVENUE STREAM
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
3. PAYROLL TAX
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
4. LAND TAX
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
5. STAMP DUTY
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
6. BUDGET HAS BECOME DEPENDENT ON PROPERTY TAXES
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
7. INSURANCE TAXES
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
8. A DECADE OF EASE – VICTORIA’S BUDGET DOUBLES
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
9. ON THE DEBT ROLLERCOASTER
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
10. DEBT ON EVERY VICTORIAN TO SPIRAL
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
11. VICTORIA’S DEBT AND DEBT SERVICING TO SKYROCKET
Source: Victorian State Budget Papers, Budget Update 2009-10, Annual Financial Reports.
12. POPULATION GROWTH DRIVES THE ECONOMY
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
13. WIDENING GAP BETWEEN GROWTH IN EARNINGS AND HOUSING PRICES
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, REIV.
14. WAGES IN VICTORIA LAG THE NATION
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
15. VICTORIA’S EXPORTS LAG THE NATION
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
16. VICTORIA LOSES ITS EXPORT LEADERSHIP
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
17. VICTORIAN ECONOMY CONTINUES TO LOSE ITS HEARTLAND
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
18. HOUSING AND CONSUMER DEMAND UNDERPIN ECONOMIC GROWTH
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
19. VIOLENT CRIME CONTINUES TO GROW AS POLICE SHORTAGES ON OUR STREETS WORSEN
Source: Victoria Police Official Crime Statistics.
20. FEWEST HOSPITAL BEDS IN AUSTRALIA
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2010.
21. MANY ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING TIMES SURGE OVER THE DECADE
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2010.
22. TRAIN SERVICES GO DOWNHILL
Source: Department of Transport, Track Record Bulletin.
23. THE DAILY CRAWL
Source: Australian and New Zealand Road System and Roads Authority.
24. VICTORIA SPENDS LESS ON EACH STUDENT THAN ANY OTHER STATE
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2010.
25. PARENTS VOTING WITH THEIR FEET
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
26. BRUMBY SPENDS LESS AND LESS ON TAFE
Source: Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services 2010.
27. INVESTMENT IN WATER LAGS THE NATION
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.
28. LABOR’S WATER PROJECTS FORCE UP WATER BILLS
Source: Essential Services Commission.
29. PAYMENTS TO LABOR FORCE UP METRO WATER AUTHORITY DEBT
Source: Water Authority Annual Reports.

APPENDIX A: Summary List of Coalition policies released to date as at 28 April 2010

INTEGRITY OF GOVT

- COALITION PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO END BRUMBY ADVERTISING ABUSES
- BAILLIEU GOVT TO SCRUTINISE TAXPAYER-FUNDED ADS
- BAILLIEU TO STRENGTHEN FOI WITH INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER
- VIC COALITION COMMITS TO LOBBYISTS REGISTER AND BAN ON SUCCESS FEES
- OPPOSITION CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO VIC GOVT INVESTMENTS
- BAILLIEU CALLS FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

LAW & ORDER

- COALITION ANNOUNCES 1,600 ADDITIONAL POLICE TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFE AGAIN
- COALITION TO INTRODUCE TOUGH NEW LIQUOR OFFENCES
- VIC COALITION TO OUTLAW CRIMINAL BIKIE GANGS
- VIC COALITION PLAN TO REDUCE KNIFE THREAT
- BAILLIEU GOVT TO CRUSH HOON DRIVING WITH TOUGH NEW LAWS
- COALITION TO END SUSPENDED SENTENCES
- COALITION TO END HOME DETENTION
- BAILLIEU GOVT TO RESTORE ACCESS TO LOCAL CRIME STATS
- GOOD LIQUOR LICENSEES TO BE REWARDED UNDER 5 STAR RATING SYSTEM
- LIQUOR LICENCES AUTOMATICALLY SUSPENDED UNDER DEMERIT POINTS SYSTEM
- BAILLIEU TO STOP CRIME IN ITS TRACKS WITH NEW TRANSPORT SECURITY FORCE
- COALITION TO BAN VIOLENT DRUNKS FROM LICENSED PREMISES

MAJOR EVENTS / TOURISM

- COALITION TO GIVE GIFT A \$600,000 LIFT
- BAILLIEU ANNOUNCES BID FOR RED BULL AIR RACE IN GEELONG
- COALITION BACKS BALLARAT CUP TO RUN AS PRELUDE TO MELBOURNE CUP

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

- COALITION PROMISES UPGRADE OF SHRINE'S WEBSITE
- STATE PARLIAMENT WOULD BREAK FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY UNDER COALITION

ECONOMY

- COALITION GOVERNMENT TO RE-WRITE WORKCOVER ACT
- COALITION GOVERNMENT TO SCRAP LABOR'S CLEARWAY CHANGES
- PUTTING THE BUZZ BACK IN AGRICULTURE
- BAILLIEU TO STRENGTHEN VICTORIA'S COMPETITION
- BUILDING A STRONGER VICTORIA
- OPPOSITION CALLS FOR INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO VIC GOVT INVESTMENTS

HEALTH

- HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DATA TO BE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IN BAILLIEU GOVT OVERHAUL
- BAILLIEU CHALLENGES BRUMBY TO BUILD FOR GROWTH WITH NEW \$1 BILLION HEALTH FUND
- BAILLIEU GOVT TO BAN BONGS
- COALITION RE-IGNITING MENTAL HEALTH REFORM
- \$88.4M BOOST FOR BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES UNDER VIC COALITION

EDUCATION AND ARTS

- VIC COALITION COMMITS \$20M FOR OFFICER SECONDARY COLLEGE
- COALITION WILL FUND ROCK EISTEDDFOD
- BAILLIEU TO SUPPORT VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS
- SAFE SCHOOLS: EMPOWERING SCHOOL PRINCIPALS TO COMBAT SCHOOL VIOLENCE
- COALITION TO MAKE VICTORIAN TEACHERS HIGHEST-PAID IN AUSTRALIA
- COALITION TO RESTORE BALANCE ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FUNDING

AVIATION

- BAILLIEU ANNOUNCES BID FOR RED BULL AIR RACE IN GEELONG
- SECOND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR VICTORIA
- TRANSPORT
- BAILLIEU TO STOP CRIME IN ITS TRACKS WITH NEW TRANSPORT SECURITY FORCE

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- VIC COALITION WILL RESTORE FUNDING TO RECONCILIATION VICTORIA
- VIC COALITION WIN TO INCREASE SCRUTINY OF CHILD DEATHS

- VIC COALITION WOULD STRENGTHEN CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

- COALITION WOULD MAKE FIRE FUNDING FAIRER
- VIC COALITION TO REINSTATE CATTLE GRAZING
- NEW POWERS TO CONTROL ARSONISTS
- ARSON PREVENTION TASKFORCE MUST BE A PRIORITY
- VOLUNTEER RESPONSE NEEDS BETTER CO-ORDINATION
- OMBUDSMAN SHOULD OVERSEE BUSHFIRE ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

PLANNING

- VIC COALITION TO END PLANNING EXEMPTION FOR BOTTLE SHOPS

APPENDIX B: Summary of Coalition promises adopted by Labor to date since 2006 State Election

1. Increase in police force numbers by 1,700 over next 4 years.
2. Police Protective Services Officers on stations after 6pm.
3. Anti-hoon laws – crushing cars for a third offence
4. Restore a dedicated bus service for children with special needs attending Bendigo’s Special Developmental School.
5. Appoint a Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Ombudsman
6. Dedicated spokesman for Bushfire Recovery
7. Liquor licensing fees review
8. Allow municipalities in country Victoria to designate different public holidays, as substitute for Melbourne Cup Day.
9. Support the acquisition of a large jet water bomber in time for the coming fire season.
10. A Mental Illness Research Fund.
11. Establish sister-school program between Victorian, interstate and overseas.
12. Construction of the Frankston Bypass.
13. Expansion of Avalon Airport into an international airport.
14. Upgrade of Ferntree Gully Railway Station to premium.
15. Commitment to restoring the funding stripped from Catholic schools, provide funding to ensure that Catholic school teachers are paid in line with the recent EBA with Government school teachers.
16. Victorian teacher pay the highest in the nation.
17. Late entry bans for pubs, bars and nightclubs.
18. Safety screens and paid fares for taxis.
19. Strengthen the law against touting for taxi passengers.
20. South-west emergency helicopter.
21. Bring kindergartens under education department.
22. Salary bonuses for hard-to-staff schools.
23. Performance pay for teachers.
24. Implementation of Hoon Hotline.
25. Implementation of enhanced taxi driver test.
26. Initiative on domestic violence to allow interim intervention orders, applying for up to 72 hours, issued by police.
27. Extend gamblers self-exclusion program to all gaming venues.
28. Bill to control body piercing of minors.
29. Bill to control underage smoking and outlaw smoking in automobiles when children are present.
30. Doubling of funding to Gamblers Help Line.
31. Amend licence conditions so gaming venue operators take responsible for addressing problem gambling.
32. Underperforming school principals to be removed and high-performing principals to be given financial incentives.
33. Banning of the sale of spray paint cans to minors.
34. Fox bounty.
35. Independent Gaming Inquiry into gaming licenses.
36. Transport for Deaf Children.
37. Commissioner for Children.
38. Land Tax reforms.
39. Driver Education Centres.
40. CountryLink policy.
41. Hoon Laws (confiscation of cars first proposed by the Liberal Party in April 2005, adopted by Labor October 2005).
42. Cutting Government advertising, promotional and consultants’ budget.
43. Commitment to eliminate school maintenance backlog.
44. Elimination of Zone 3 on public transport.
45. Initiative to address the shortage of Country Doctors.
46. Erskine Pipeline.
47. Warrnambool Hospital.
48. Construction of Whittlesea Ambulance Station.
49. Geelong Ring Road Stage 4.
50. Tasers stun guns deployment.
51. Increased library funding plan.
52. Construction of Sebastapol Ambulance Station.
53. Selective Schools and Technical Colleges.
54. Kindergartens - \$730 four-year old kinder policy to pay \$730 for Health Care Card Holder’s children.
55. Toxic Waste Dumps.
56. Geelong aquifers.
57. 3rd pipe infrastructure in new developments.
58. Devilbend Reservoir.
59. Water tanks for major infrastructure.
60. Desalination Plant.