

# Media Release

**Jaclyn Symes MLC**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Regional Development



Wednesday, 29 October 2025

## TEN QUESTIONS BRAD BATTIN MUST ANSWER ON BUDGET BLACKHOLE

Brad Battin and Jess Wilson are at odds. The National Party has been sidelined.

This only means one thing. The Liberals are planning to cut, cut and cut.

Yesterday the Liberals confirmed they have a massive budget blackhole – and now they’re walking back their fake promises to Victorians.

The Liberals’ confirmation comes after new analysis released on Tuesday laid bare the scale of the Opposition’s plan to sack ambos, nurses, cops and teachers to pay for their budget blackhole.

### TEN QUESTIONS THE LIBERALS MUST ANSWER ON THEIR PLAN TO CUT

1. Why have you been telling Victorians you will ‘scrap the tax’ referring to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), but now say you will re-introduce the Fire Services Property Levy (FSPL)?
2. Reintroducing the FSPL will mean CFA and VICSES volunteers, including many farmers, will pay more than they do today – why are you making them pay more in tax?
3. Will you cut Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grants, which are funded by the ESVF?
4. Will you cancel orders for extra trucks that CFA, VICSES and FRV are due to receive, which are funded by the ESVF?
5. Brad Battin has pledged no increase to charges, but Jess Wilson has confirmed that the Liberals have “no intention of freezing government charges”, who is telling the truth?
6. Why won’t you release the costings of any of your policies?
7. Did the Shadow Treasurer consult the Leader of the Opposition before walking back announced policies – will you undo more of the damage?
8. Will you support the congestion levy changes this week, or add \$85 million a year to your billion-dollar blackhole?
9. Will you commit to publishing your costings each time you make a promise to the Victorian people?
10. When will you detail the cuts to fill the growing \$10.8 billion blackhole?

### Quotes attributable to Treasurer Jaclyn Symes

*“The Liberal leadership division is once again on full display.”*

*“The Liberals need to come clean and say what they will cut to pay for their \$10.8 billion blackhole.”*

*“Unlike the Liberals, we will never cut nurses, teachers, police officers or child protection workers.”*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Finance Danny Pearson

*“Same Liberals, same cuts. While they fight among themselves, their plan would see thousands of Victorians lose their jobs.”*

*“Their cuts will leave Victoria with no capacity to build for the future — no investment, frontline job losses, and a weaker state.”*

**Media contact:** Rhys Devine 0432 621 118 | [rhys.devine@minstaff.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhys.devine@minstaff.vic.gov.au)