

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

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BRAD BATTIN DEEPENS BUDGET BLACK HOLE BY \$335 MILLION

Brad Battin and Jess Wilson started last week with a \$10.8 billion-dollar black hole, and they ended it with an even bigger \$11.1 billion-dollar black hole.

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

The Liberal Party has officially opposed cutting congestion in the CBD and bringing Melbourne's congestion levy charge in line with Sydney – throwing another \$335 million onto their reckless budget black hole.

This latest unfunded Coalition policy on congestion levy is enough to put 926 firefighters on the Liberal's chopping block – and that's on top of the 4,500 police officers, 9,000 teachers and 18,000 nurses that would need to be sacked just to fill the blackhole they had at the beginning of the week.

New analysis released this week laid bare the scale of the Liberal and Nationals' plan for cuts – which are equivalent at least to Victorias Police's Budget over two years or shutting down seven hospitals.

The Shadow Treasurer confirmed they have a massive budget blackhole – and then tried to walk back the Leader of the Opposition's fake promises to Victorians.

They're at odds, and Victorians deserve the truth: who is in charge and what are their promises worth?

The last time the Liberal and National parties were in office, they cut schools, hospitals and brought the TAFE system to its knees. The Labor Government reversed these savage cuts to essential services that underpin our economy and quality of life.

The Allan Labor Government's investment in workers, transport and jobs is driving our economy forward and our strong economic plan is protecting our future – and we will always support our frontline.

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

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Jaclyn Symes

"Brad Battin started last week with a \$10.8 billion-dollar black hole, and he's ended it with a \$11.1 billion-dollar black hole."

"This is financial recklessness, plain and simple. They know they can't pay for their plans without savage cuts and they just don't want to admit it to Victorians."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Finance Danny Pearson

"The Liberals clearly haven't learned from recent history — Liz Truss tried the same brand of voodoo economics, and it ended in economic disaster for Britain."

"The Liberal Party is divided and instead of doing the real policy work needed to govern they will cut Victorian jobs instead."