



Mike Baird MP

NSW Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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LABOR'S CUNNING PLAN FOR HIGHER TAXES AND DEBT

NSW Treasurer Mike Baird today revealed NSW Labor has a blueprint under which it would impose a congestion charge on Sydney motorists and increase the tax slug – or “overall tax take” -- on households across the State.

The proposals are contained in a secret policy document from the NSW Labor Policy Forum titled *Jobs and the Economy Policy Commission*.

“Labor’s disturbing new policies will hurt families, devastate the economy, cost jobs and send the cost of living skyrocketing,” Mr Baird said.

“These secret plans were developed by the Labor Party Policy Forum – which is overseen by Labor Leader John Robertson, Shadow Treasurer Michael Daley and other senior members of the ALP caucus.”

According to the document, to fund its infrastructure promises, Labor is prepared to risk the AAA credit rating and slug residents with more taxes.

The document states they would “Pay for it with an increased overall tax take, and some more debt.”

Labor is also planning to slug Sydney motorists and plans to “replace vehicle taxes with a Sydney congestion charge.”

Mr Baird said, “Labor has form introducing congestion taxes.”

“It introduced time of day tolling on the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Tunnel.

“Labor has done it once and it wants to do it again – it cannot be trusted.

“Labor’s congestion tax would harshly punish residents in Western Sydney who commute long distances to work.

“NSW residents should be deeply alarmed by Labor’s cunning plan to increase the overall tax take – with all State taxes likely to rise.

“Labor’s policy of increasing debt could also threaten the AAA credit rating, which would cost NSW taxpayers about \$3.75 billion over 10 years.

“John Robertson cannot walk away from this secret document – he is the Co-Chair of the NSW Labor Policy Forum.

“Michael Daley has an even deeper involvement with this policy blueprint, as he is Co-Chair of the Jobs and the Economy Policy Commission – which is an arm of Labor’s Policy Forum.

“Labor’s Deputy Upper House Leader Adam Searle MLC, and the Shadow Minister for Transport, Penny Sharpe MLC, are also members of Labor’s Jobs and the Economy Policy Commission.

“It’s no wonder up until now the Leader of the Opposition has been lurking in a fiscal hiding-hole,” Mr Baird said.

“When people see these policies it will scare the living daylights of them.

“Over the past three years the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has introduced policies to ease cost of living pressures on families.

“We have strengthened the economy and created jobs. We now have the nation’s best performing economy and the country’s lowest unemployment rate.

“This secret document shows Labor has not learned, has not changed and definitely cannot be trusted.

“We will fight tooth and nail to ensure Labor’s irresponsible and expensive policies are never imposed on NSW residents.”