



Mike Baird MP

NSW Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

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ROBBO'S WRECKING BALL GETTING BIGGER

John Robertson's irresponsible plan to extend stamp duty concessions to purchasers of existing homes would cost the State budget about \$2 billion over the next four years and make housing less affordable, NSW Treasurer Mike Baird said today.

"Mr Robertson has opposed all the measures we've taken to repair the state Budget, and now he wants to cause extra damage to state finances, and to the prospects of first home buyers being able to enter a tight housing market," Mr Baird said.

Mr Baird was responding to Mr Robertson's description of the decision by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government to increase the assistance offered to First Home Buyers to a maximum of \$35,240, but to restrict stamp duty concessions to purchasers of new homes, as "devastating".

"One reputable economist after another has pointed out that offering first home buyer incentives to purchasers of existing homes simply drives up prices – and mortgages -- by the equivalent of the grant offered," Mr Baird said.

"The key to improving housing affordability is supply, supply and more supply, and that is exactly what has occurred under our policies.

"There were about 34,700 new homes approved in Sydney last year, compared to the low of 16,200 in 2009 under NSW Labor.

"Mr Robertson has already demonstrated his fiscal irresponsibility by opposing measures such as the 2.5 per cent annual ceiling on public sector wage rises, the inclusion of superannuation increases in that ceiling, and reform in areas such as WorkCover and police Death and Disability insurance.

"Meanwhile, he opposes every element of the asset recycling program that has allowed us to begin work on the vital infrastructure Labor promised, but never delivered.

"If you want to talk about fiscal devastation, this is hard to go past.

"I will have plenty more to say about the Robbo Wrecking Ball between now and the election next March," said Mr Baird.