

A family of four is playing in a park. A man and a woman are holding up a large red and black plaid blanket, and two young girls are running and playing with it. The background is filled with large, leafy trees and a green lawn.

FRESH START PLAN!

CHRIS MINNS & LABOR

A summary of key policies

Labor



CHRIS MINNS
NSW Labor Leader

PRUE CAR
NSW Deputy Labor Leader

Thanks for taking the time to find out how our Fresh Start Plan works.

In this election you have a clear choice between Labor's Fresh Start Plan for a better future - or more of the same from a 12-year-old Coalition government that is not prepared for a rapidly changing world and is too willing to just accept things as they are.

For the last two years, since I became leader, Deputy Prue Car, the team and I have travelled around our great state listening to you.

Everywhere we have gone, we hear that things could be better: more teachers for our schools; more healthcare workers and beds for hospitals; transport to make life easier, not harder and more expensive; housing that is affordable and supported by good services and infrastructure; and an environment that we can enjoy now and in the future.

The community knows what is needed and, after 12 long years, you just need a government that listens and delivers a fresh start.

Good government is about delivering on what matters to the community and building a better future for you, your family and businesses in NSW.

Our Fresh Start Plan does just that by building on six key pillars:

Education for Life – Labor will make NSW's education system a foundation of opportunities for people and the economy, rejuvenating our preschools and TAFE.

Healthcare – Labor will repair and rebuild our health system.

Roads and Transport – Labor will ensure communities can access an affordable and reliable transport system, and reduce the burden of tolls on the family budget.

Housing Affordability – Labor will make good, sustainable housing attainable for buyers and renters.

Energy and Renewables – Labor will end the privatisation of our energy assets and legislate our commitment to net zero by 2050.

Economy and Jobs – Labor will build an economy that is resilient and works for people and small businesses – not the other way around.

And that's just the start.

Labor's Fresh Start Plan delivers on other areas that matter to you. For a comprehensive list of all parts of our Fresh Start Plan, please visit; freshstartplan.com.au

Underpinning each of these pillars is our recognition that people across NSW are struggling with the rising cost of living. Our Fresh Start Plan includes a number of key short and long-term measures to help you with these pressures.

Over the coming weeks, we will share more details about how our Fresh Start Plan will deliver a better future for you, your family and businesses right across NSW.

Chris

Our Fresh Start Plan for Education recognises the importance of lifelong education for all - from the very young at preschool, to TAFE and University, to the person changing careers, to the retiree who wants to explore something new.

Labor believes that the education sector should attract, reward and retain good teachers to realise the potential of our children and our state.

Education is the cornerstone of every thriving economy, and we want ours to be world-class again, with the best and brightest teachers and first-rate school facilities.

There's a clear choice at the next election when it comes to education in NSW.

More of the same chronic teacher shortages, underfunding of schools and under delivering of school infrastructure under Dominic Perrottet and the Liberal and National Government - or Labor's plan for a Fresh Start in education.

The best start for our children

Our Fresh Start Plan will build 100 public preschools co-located with government primary schools, in our first term in office.

We will also invest in 50 new and expanded preschools at NSW's non-government schools, ensuring we expand the availability of co-located preschools.

Labor's plan to build more preschools will boost the availability of preschool places for families, provide stronger connections between early learning and primary education, and help end the double drop-off.

Retaining teachers and stopping them from leaving the profession

Our Fresh Start Plan will end the Perrottet Government's war on teachers, to ensure they can focus on what they do best - teaching our children.

We will immediately instruct the Department of Education to begin negotiations to reach a comprehensive agreement to reduce teacher workloads and make salaries more competitive - while protecting the NSW Budget.

We will convert 10,000 temporary teaching roles to permanent roles. This will give teachers the job security they have been asking for to make teaching their life's work; give schools the certainty that they need to deliver lessons; and parents the confidence that their children will not experience ongoing merged and cancelled classes.

We will also conduct a line-by-line audit of all administrative tasks teachers are required to do, to cut the administrative burden on teachers by at least five hours per week.



/ EDUCATION FOR LIFE



Recruiting and training more teachers

To get more of our best and brightest to take on a career in teaching, we will:

- Create a \$20 million Innovative Teacher Training Fund to support innovative pathways into teaching.
- Expand evening and weekend Master of Teaching courses for career-changers, by partnering with teacher education providers so career-changers can earn an income whilst re-training as a teacher.

Building schools for the future

Labor's 'Growth Areas Schools Plan' will deliver new and upgraded schools in fast-growing areas, backed by an audit of enrolment growth across NSW.

We will also give every child in NSW the option to attend a co-ed public high school.

Lifting education outcomes

A Minns Labor Government will end the historic underfunding of public schools by creating a \$400 million Education Future Fund.

This fund will ensure all public schools receive the funding they need to deliver improved student outcomes and end chronic teacher shortages.

We will also establish an ongoing, targeted Literacy and Numeracy tutoring program to ensure every student can achieve their full potential.

The program will operate in both primary and high schools, with a particular focus on year groups that have spent their whole schooling life under a NSW Liberal and National Government.

Reducing the pressure on children

Our Fresh Start Plan will put more school counsellors into schools to ensure students have the support they need.

We will ban mobile phones in all public schools to tackle cyber-bullying and improve students' learning and social development.

We will also conduct a review into the impact of technology on children and young people and develop digital literacy programs to tackle cyber-bullying.

Rebuilding TAFE

Years of neglect from the Liberal and National Government has left NSW with a shell of a vocational system.

Our Fresh Start Plan will create a vocational system that is available for everyone.

We will support NSW TAFE to deliver the long-term strategies needed to resolve the statewide skills shortage, starting with a guarantee that a minimum of 70 per cent of total skills funding will go to TAFE. This will provide TAFE with the financial stability it needs to provide quality education.

We will conduct a comprehensive review of the vocational education system to restore TAFE to be the best it can, and re-skill NSW.

Our Fresh Start Plan ensures all of us in NSW have access to an excellent education and one that provides the building blocks for a stronger and more resilient economy.

No matter where we travel, you have told us that when someone you love is injured or sick, you want them to have the very best care as soon as possible and close to home.

We want our healthcare to be the best in Australia. Healthcare that everyone can access quickly and easily; where our health workers want to work and feel safe at work; and where they are paid a wage that actually recognises the crucial work they do for all of us.

Retain our health workers and stop them from leaving the profession

We need more than band-aid solutions to fix the chronic shortage of health workers, who have been overworked and undervalued for far too long.

That starts by removing Dominic Perrottet's cap on the wages of health workers so they can be paid what they're worth, and we can start working in partnership with them to deliver better public services and rebuild the healthcare system.

We will deliver long-term structural reform to the healthcare system by introducing minimum and enforceable Safe Staffing Levels to public hospitals, starting with emergency departments and then progressively out into other areas.

Recruiting more health workers

As part of our Safe Staffing Level Plan, we will hire an additional 1,200 nurses. This means nurses can preserve the amount of time they can spend caring for each of their patients.

We will also hire 500 new paramedics in rural and regional areas.

The new paramedics will be spread across areas in the State with the most need – to be determined following consultation with healthcare professionals.

We will also work to upskill new and existing paramedics to intensive care and extended care paramedics. This means they can deliver more lifesaving and compassionate care and ease pressure on our hospitals.

We will have more to say about how our Fresh Start Plan will train additional health workers in coming weeks.

Expanding and upgrading better health services

Since 2015-16 NSW has lost 365 public hospital beds, while every other state (other than South Australia) increased their number of beds. For instance, Victoria gained 598 and QLD gained 1,027.



**“ WE WANT OUR
HEALTHCARE TO
BE THE BEST IN
AUSTRALIA**

/ HEALTH



Our Plan will deliver over 600 hospital beds in Western Sydney, beginning with a 300-bed hospital at Rouse Hill, which will see \$700 million spent to more than double the existing plans and provide urgently needed services to a growing population centre.

We will also commence planning and site selection for a new public hospital in the Aerotropolis, securing the future of a new hospital that will service the largest growth area of Sydney over the coming decades - over 360,000 people in the next 20 years.

We will also upgrade Canterbury, Fairfield, Mount Druitt and Blacktown Hospitals, and open the new Eurobodalla Hospital on the South Coast at Level 4 capacity – with more announcements to come.

Labor will invest \$100 million over five years to boost the funding to Women's Health Centres across the State, guaranteeing women have access to key health services and relieving pressure on NSW hospitals.

We will also fund an additional 29 McGrath Breast Care Nurses to make NSW the first state in Australia where every person experiencing breast cancer will be able to receive the free care and support of a breast care nurse.

Mental health

Parents across NSW are concerned about the rising mental health crisis facing children and young people. This has been exacerbated by COVID-19, by social media, and by the constant pressures of growing up in a digital age.

Our Fresh Start Plan will boost access for mental health services for young people by investing \$17 million to the Kids Helpline over four years to increase their capacity to respond to a rising number of calls.

We will also establish legislation to enshrine a whole-of-government approach to suicide prevention.

These are just the start. Along with the rest of our Fresh Start Plan, Labor will ensure that everyone in NSW gets world-class healthcare when and where they need it.

/ HEALTH

Labor believes in a transport system where everyone has accessible, affordable, reliable and sustainable transport available to them - whether that be road, rail, bus, light rail, bike and emerging 'e' platforms.

Investing in better transport

Our Fresh Start for Transport will begin with the construction of Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2. We will do this with an additional \$200 million investment to finalise planning and procurement, and get work underway. Under Labor, construction for Parramatta Light Rail Stage 2 will start in our first term, instead of the five-year delay under the Liberals.

We will also partner with the Federal Albanese Labor Government to identify and fund vital transport and road projects for NSW.

End the privatisation of our public transport

The Liberals' privatisation of bus services across parts of Sydney and the Hunter has led to a decline in the quality of transport services available to passengers - cuts to services, closing bus stops and a shortage of drivers.

Our Fresh Start Plan will end the privatisation of our public transport. And we will establish a bus industry taskforce involving the industry, trade unions and community stakeholders so we can improve bus services for passengers across NSW and begin to clean up the mess caused by privatisation. We will keep Sydney Trains and NSW Train Link in public hands.

Tolls

We will also provide toll relief by retaining the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Harbour Tunnel toll concessions as publicly owned, and putting that money into toll relief. Labor will not privatise the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Harbour Tunnel - ever.

In coming weeks, we will announce our toll policy - unlike the Liberal and Nationals Government who, after signing up Sydney motorists to \$115 billion in tolls under current contracts, are refusing to release their toll review before the election.

Locally built public transport fleet

During their 12 years in office, the Liberal and National Government have refused to build our trains, buses, ferries and light rail in NSW. This has cost 4,000 local jobs and undermined the reliability of our public transport system. Instead, they chose overseas built ferries that contain asbestos and do not fit under bridges; trains that did not fit in tunnels; and trams that are cracked.

Our Fresh Start Plan means building our public transport fleet locally - starting by building the replacement to the ageing Tangara fleet right here. This will create 1,000 jobs during the design and build phase, and many more in the ongoing maintenance. Additionally, we will set a target of 50 per cent minimum local content for future rolling stock contracts, by the end of our first term.

Through the delivery of current projects; promised but not yet delivered projects, and our new initiatives, we will deliver the transport system that NSW deserves.



ROADS AND TRANSPORT



A place to call home - rented or purchased - is fundamental to everyone's wellbeing and ability to pursue their dreams.

There is no silver bullet when it comes to improving housing affordability, but there is a clear choice at this election: Labor's comprehensive plan to address supply; help with the financial burden on first home buyers; and making regional housing more affordable - or Dominic Perrottet's plan to put a forever land tax on at least 80 per cent of family homes.

NSW is facing a rental affordability crisis, especially in regional areas of the state where there are simply fewer options.

Labor will increase the supply of housing in the regions and deliver more affordable rental housing, starting with a pilot Build to Rent program on the South Coast. Any properties built on surplus government land will be subject to Labor's mandatory requirement for 30 per cent of dwellings to be used for social, affordable, and universal housing.

Help for first home buyers

Labor will abolish stamp duty outright for first home buyers buying a home worth up to \$800,000 while offering a concessional rate to first-home buyers purchasing a property up to \$1,000,000. Our Plan removes or reduces stamp duty for 95 per cent of first home buyers, and protects families from the forever land tax planned by the Liberal and National Government.



LABOR WILL INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING IN THE REGIONS AND DELIVER MORE AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING

/ HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

A better and fairer deal for renters

Listening to renters all over the State, we hear the same stories: insufficient rental stock, a lack of affordable housing, and rent bidding leading to rising costs.

Our Fresh Start for housing acknowledges that more and more of us are choosing or being forced to rent.

Labor's Plan will make renting fairer with the appointment of a Rental Commissioner who will be an advocate and voice for renters. They will identify barriers to increasing housing supply for renting, look for practices and gaps that erode the rights of renters, and gather data on renting and survey renters to help inform future policy making.

We will protect renters from unfair evictions by tasking the Rental Commissioner with creating reasonable grounds for ending a lease.

We will ban secret rent bidding meaning that rental transactions will be open and transparent. If renters want to offer more than the listed price, this will have to be disclosed to all applicants who then have the chance to match the offer.

Our Fresh Start Plan will also give immediate cost of living relief to renters moving homes, by making sure they don't have to set aside extra money while they wait for their bond to be refunded – with the introduction of a portable bonds scheme. Renters will be able to directly transfer bonds from one property to another, while ensuring landlords still have access to funds they may need.

Our Plan recognises the importance of pets for companionship and wellbeing, so we will make it easier, fairer and more transparent to apply for having a pet in a rental property.

Our plans will help address the housing affordability crisis without introducing a forever land tax on family homes.

“ WE WILL PROTECT RENTERS FROM UNFAIR EVICTIONS BY TASKING THE RENTAL COMMISSIONER WITH CREATING REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR ENDING A LEASE



/ HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



Across the state, we have heard from families and businesses struggling with rising power bills. For 12 years our electricity network has been sold off to the highest bidder, leaving NSW more exposed to the impact of global affairs on energy supply.

Under the Liberals and Nationals, Eraring power station was sold for \$50 million – before they were forced to try and buy it back, less than a decade later, for \$239 million. Vales Point power station was sold for \$1 million, allowing the new owners to make \$354 million in profits in just the last four years, before on-selling it for \$200 million. And Liddell power station was sold for effectively zero dollars.

The results speak for themselves – record high energy prices, and an energy system on the brink of disaster.

The Liberals and Nationals promised energy bills would be \$130 lower for households and \$430 lower for businesses - every year from 2023. Instead, prices in NSW have risen 26% in just the last six months.

Meanwhile, independent research has found that our privatised energy companies are charging 'superprofits' of 10 to 15 per cent - while the last remaining public energy distributor, Essential Energy, does not.

Labor's Fresh Start Plan will put an end to the Liberal National Government's agenda of failed privatisations.

Legislated carbon emissions reduction targets

We will legislate NSW's carbon emissions reduction targets, including net zero by 2050 and a 50 per cent reduction on 2005 carbon emissions levels by 2030. And we will establish a Net Zero Commission to monitor and review our progress, its impacts on jobs and industry, as well as energy prices.

ENERGY
AND RENEWABLES

Central to our future prosperity is the growth of a NSW economy that works in the interests of people – not the other way around.

The Liberals have sold off over \$90 billion worth of public assets but failed to set our economy up for the future. Since they came to office 12 years ago, the number of people in NSW finishing apprenticeships each year has more than halved; the state has lost 42,000 manufacturing jobs; and NSW gross debt has increased by five times to over \$128 billion. And by selling off so many assets, our budget has lost billions of dollars in dividends that were previously reinvested back into essential services like schools and hospitals.

Ending the short-term economic reliance on privatisation

Our Fresh Start Plan will halt the privatisation of state assets and we will change the law to stop privatisation into the future.

This legislation will protect essential services like Sydney Water, Hunter Water, Water NSW, Sydney Trains, Endeavor Energy, Ausgrid, Essential Energy, the Sydney Harbour Crossings, iCare, Forestry Corp, Landcom and the NSW Port Authority – all of which the Liberal and National Government have refused to rule out selling off.

This just makes sense, not just from a community perspective, but an economic perspective as well. In July 2021 at the ACCC annual regulatory conference the then-Chair Rod Sims said “Privatising assets without allowing for competition or regulation creates private monopolies that raise prices, reduce efficiency and harm the economy”.

Backing local manufacturing

COVID and other global issues have impacted our growth, as they have all economies in Australia. But they also have taught us a valuable lesson.

We cannot rely on global supply chains and must invest in and build on our local manufacturing bases and other industries. Otherwise, we will be at the mercy of international or interstate rivals.



OUR FRESH START PLAN WILL HALT THE PRIVATISATION OF STATE ASSETS AND WE WILL CHANGE THE LAW TO STOP PRIVATISATION INTO THE FUTURE



**JOBS AND
/ ECONOMY**



/ JOBS AND ECONOMY

NSW has a \$33 billion manufacturing industry across more than 26,000 businesses, employing a quarter of a million people directly across transport, agriculture, food, aerospace, medical, and renewable energy sectors, to name a few.

The sector is critical to our economy today but an important source of new, high-skilled jobs in the future. But our local manufacturers need a government that backs them, not talks them down.

At its heart, our Fresh Start Plan will build on our manufacturing strengths, investing in and prioritising local content and local manufacturing in all government contracts.

This starts with the next fleet of trains to replace the Tangara fleet, ending the Liberals' obsession with false economies of offshore sourcing.

Backing NSW businesses

Our Fresh Start Plan will support businesses across NSW. We will increase tender weightings to 30 per cent capturing local content, job creation, small business, and ethical supply chains.

We will also set up a NSW Jobs First Commission – an independent, expert body, to oversee the implementation and growth of local industries, to support and advocate for local firms in bidding for government tenders.

Skills for the future

NSW is in a skills crisis. This has become a serious economic issue because of the consequences of significant labor shortages – including low productivity, a delay in major infrastructure projects, increased costs and upward pressure on interest rates.

To make matters even harder, with the loss of manufacturing jobs, NSW has also seen the demise of the skills and training centres to support our manufacturing industry.

Our Fresh Start Plan will address the skills gap through TAFE Manufacturing Centres of Excellence – starting with Western Sydney, the Hunter, and Illawarra.

We want NSW to be a manufacturing powerhouse, and we want to train and skill up the next generation of high paid, high skilled workers who will literally build a better NSW for future generations.

This is on top of our investments in preschool, education and post-secondary education that provide the building blocks for a future workforce that is both productive and resilient.

Labor's Fresh Start Plan will build a strong economy for the future and provide jobs growth and skills to fulfill the ambitions of the people of NSW.

**IT'S TIME FOR A
FRESH START FOR
NEW SOUTH WALES.**





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