



Dominic Perrottet
Treasurer
Minister for Industrial Relations

MEDIA RELEASE

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TREASURER CALLS ON LABOR TO REVEAL TRUE COST

The NSW Government says independent costing advice from the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) shows NSW Labor vastly underestimated the cost to abolish all transport charges for children under 16 years of age or still at school.

The Government asked the PBO to cost a policy of providing free transport for children under 16 years of age or still at school, to see if it was viable and should be explored further.

Labor had announced their policy would cost \$44 million a year or \$132 million over three years.

The PBO compiled figures for the Government showing the total cost would be \$636 million over the same three year period - almost five times as much as Labor indicated for their policy.

The PBO is an independent body which provides costings of proposed or publicly announced election policies.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said Labor's embarrassing bungle proves Labor are a clear and present danger to the NSW budget.

"To fund this policy would create a budget black hole, and Labor would have to fill it by diverting money from schools and hospitals right across NSW," Mr Perrottet said

"The PBO has indicated Labor has costed their policy, Mr Daley should release this information if Labor believes they can deliver it for \$44 million a year."

Mr Perrottet said that to cater for the increased demand, hundreds of extra bus services could be needed, and ferry and train services would need to absorb more passengers.

"The idea that people respond to incentives is one of the most basic principles of economics - but clearly beyond the Labor party," Mr Perrottet said.

"Labor is not only threatening to cancel projects, and cost thousands of jobs, but they haven't even thought about the implications of their own policy."

“Eight years of hard work by the Liberals & Nationals to balance the State’s budget has been undone in one afternoon with one ill-thought out announcement by the Opposition Leader.”

“Mr Daley was in charge of running the finances for the last failed Labor government in 2011 - now we know why things were such a mess. The people of our state simply cannot afford Labor.”

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