

Thursday 6 May 2010

COALITION COMMITS TO MINIMUM ANNUAL STATE BUDGET SURPLUS OF \$100 MILLION

A Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government is committed to ensuring a minimum annual state budget surplus of \$100 million if elected at November's state election.

The Coalition makes this pledge of ensuring a minimum annual \$100 million state budget surplus in the spirit of transparency, accountability and responsible financial management principles, all guiding parameters that have been particularly lacking over Labor's decade of waste and mismanagement.

The minimum budget surplus target will reassure Victorians and give them peace of mind of about where they stand with a Coalition Government in relation to fiscal responsibility.

The Coalition's commitment stands in stark contrast to the Labor Government's repeated flip flopping on the issue.

When first elected, Labor promised a \$100 million budget surplus, then a few years later, the policy was changed to one per cent of revenue.

Now the Brumby Government has once again back-flipped, going back to its original policy of a \$100 million minimum state budget surplus.

The policy decision is also made in the context of a forecast spiralling interest cost bill of \$3.2 billion and total public sector net debt of \$31.7 billion by 2014.

The Coalition's decision to commit to a minimum annual \$100 million state budget surplus is made as an integral part of a comprehensive and financially responsible management plan for the state's finances which will also incorporate a state debt repayment strategy as announced at last May's Coalition Budget Reply.

A Coalition Government is committed to strong financial and prudential management principles with a particular focus on financial transparency for Victorian taxpayers.

The Coalition's policy will be a breath of fresh air for Victorians who are simply sick and tired of the Brumby Labor Government's decade of spin, secrecy, non-transparency and total lack of accountability when it comes to the state's finances.