

VOTE

MATT FORD

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

for SOUTHERN METRO REGION



**How to vote for us in the
Legislative Council:**

Liberal
Democrats
Southern
Metropolitan



Either vote 1 above the line

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1

**Liberal
Democrats**

Or Vote below the line by
numbering 1 to at least 5

Authorised by R Westgarth, Liberal Democratic Party, 117/757 Bourke St, Docklands VIC 3008

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Registered by the Victorian Electoral Commission

HONEST GOVERNMENT

Authorised by R Westgarth, Liberal Democratic Party, 117/757 Bourke St, Docklands VIC 3008



TREAT VICTORIANS LIKE ADULTS



A PROSPEROUS VICTORIA

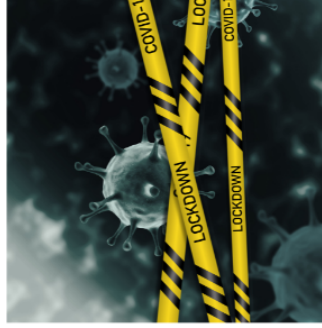


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A BILL OF RIGHTS

The COVID-19 response exposed that the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is inadequate to protect Victorians when it matters.

Protection of human rights is the hallmark of a liberal democracy and the Liberal Democrats will seek to protect the human rights of all Victorians by introducing a Constitutional Bill of Rights for your approval at a referendum.



EMERGENCY POWER SAFEGUARDS

In Victoria, the government has set a precedent for using emergency powers to suppress protests, surveil citizens and control their movements, and enforce coercive medical mandates.

The Liberal Democrats will protect democracy by introducing the following safe-guards to emergency powers legislation:

- independent review of all emergency powers directions
- transparency of relevant advice and human rights compatibility assessments
- detention review rights; and
- penalties for lawmakers who breach the safeguards

STRONGER INTEGRITY BODIES

Victoria's anti-corruption watchdog, the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC), is failing to meet community expectations to investigate certain matters such as police misconduct. The Liberal Democrats will strengthen IBAC's ability to expose corruption in the Public Sector by:

- improving IBAC's investigative powers and power to conduct public hearings
- independent oversight of all police misconduct complaints; and
- securing additional funding for IBAC to hold the public sector accountable

END THE NANNY STATE

In Victoria, the proliferation of laws designed to save us from our own lifestyle choices is patronising and wastes precious resources. In many cases, there is little evidence for these intrusions and strong cases can be made for legalisation from a harm minimisation perspective.

Provided you are not harming anyone else, the best person to make decisions for you – is you.

The Liberal Democrats will seek to reduce Nanny State intrusions, and remove legal restrictions and penalties for victimless crimes such as cannabis possession and vaping.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Education spending has skyrocketed over the past 50 years yet education standards have dropped across Victoria. True education reform requires taking power away from government bureaucracies. This will create competition and school choice, as well as remove the government's stranglehold on imposing politicised curriculum which many parents disagree with.



The Liberal Democrats know that one size does not fit all when it comes to students and their education and will seek to:

- fund students not institutions
- allow schools to opt out of the National Curriculum; and
- support independent education models like co-ops and micro-schools.

UNLOCK VICTORIA

National Parks are created with the aim of protecting significant sites by enacting restrictions that limit the ability of Victorians to access public land. The restrictions hamper valuable community management activities such as pest control, fuel load reduction, and maintenance of fire trails, as well as stopping people from engaging in certain outdoor recreation like prospecting and horse-riding.

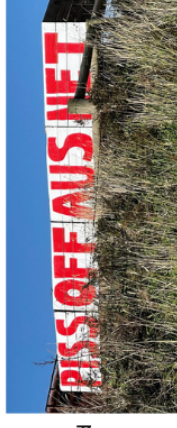
The Liberal Democrats believe that public land should be open to the public and will seek to establish State Forests in place of National Parks to promote greater access and a culture of responsible land use.

AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Rising electricity and gas prices are hurting Victorian households and businesses. The major causes of these runaway prices are overregulation and climate alarmist policies, sector prohibitions, and low business confidence in investment.

The Liberal Democrats will seek to increase reliability and reduce the costs of energy by scrapping the Renewables Energy Target and reducing gas market interventions.

The Liberal Democrats will also seek to protect regional Victoria and our farmers from above ground transmission infrastructure and other externalised costs of the renewable energy agenda.



SCRAP STAMP DUTY

The Liberal Democrats recognise the importance of social mobility and bringing down the costs of home ownership and will seek to scrap stamp duty on all land transfers.

LESS RED TAPE, MORE HOUSING

There is an acute lack of affordable housing in Victoria due to complex and inefficient state and council planning processes. These cause delays in delivering new housing to the market and add to housing costs. The Liberal Democrats will seek to relax building approvals and restrictions to enable the construction of 1 million extra homes.

CUT DEBT AND DEFICIT

The 2022 Victorian budget projects state debt growing from just under \$100 billion now, to almost \$170 billion in just three years' time.

Victoria will stagnate unless we bring back fiscal responsibility, and this starts with cutting the size and cost of the public service.

The Liberal Democrats will seek to cut government spending by:

- a one-off immediate 10% cut to all State departments excluding critical frontline workers; and
- an additional 1% cut per year until the State Government debt is repaid