



**THE HON ALAN TUDGE MP
MINISTER FOR CITIES, URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND POPULATION**

MEDIA RELEASE

LABOR'S FAST RAIL WON'T EVEN GET YOU OUT OF MELBOURNE

It wouldn't be an election without Labor promising fast rail from Melbourne to Brisbane.

This time they've committed less than one percent of the cost of the project, which is expected to be \$150 billion to \$200 billion (based on inflation adjusted estimates from the 2012 figure in their own study – *High Speed Rail Phase 2*).

This would not even get a train out of Melbourne's CBD!

Even the cost required to purchase properties along the route was estimated in 2016 by Infrastructure Australia as costing \$2.8 billion.

The Liberal and Nationals Government is serious about high speed rail in order to connect regional cities to our major capitals, which would help decentralise our population. That's why as part of our Plan for Australia's Future Population we've committed to a 20-year fast rail plan.

Our plan includes

- Immediately funding the first corridor with \$2 billion for fast rail from Geelong to Melbourne, cutting the 80km journey in half to 32 minutes. This \$2 billion was allocated in the budget and will pay for 50% of the remaining costs for track upgrades. (The route would leverage the \$10b of funding already allocated for the Melbourne Airport Rail Link).
- \$40m for detailed assessments of five additional corridors, complementing the three presently underway that the federal government has funded, and others that state governments are funding. These will enable future priorities to be determined.
- Creation of a National Fast Rail Agency to guide the work, determine priorities based on the assessments, work with state governments and communities and the private sector and provide innovative finance solutions

This is on top of our rail projects we have already announced or that are underway

- \$5 billion for the Melbourne Airport Rail Link
- \$3.5 billion for North South Rail in Western Sydney, to connect Western Sydney Airport to the train network from Day 1
- \$1.6 billion for Regional Rail upgrades across Victoria

- \$475 million for Monash-Rowville Rail in Melbourne
- \$390 million for Beerburrum to Nambour Rail on Queensland's Sunshine Coast
- \$225 million for the Frankston to Baxter Rail Upgrade
- \$207 million for Gold Coast Light Rail Stages 2 and 3A

Labor's Infrastructure spokesperson, Anthony Albanese, thinks he is in an episode of Utopia.

Only a Morrison Government has a real plan for fast rail.

10 May 2019

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