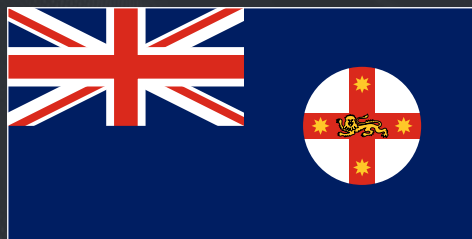


# FREEDOM MANIFESTO

## NSW 2023

*Capitalism*  
*Coal & Nuclear*  
*COVID Justice*  
*Colour Blind*  
*Cut Spending*



## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

*(like the Liberals but with conviction)*

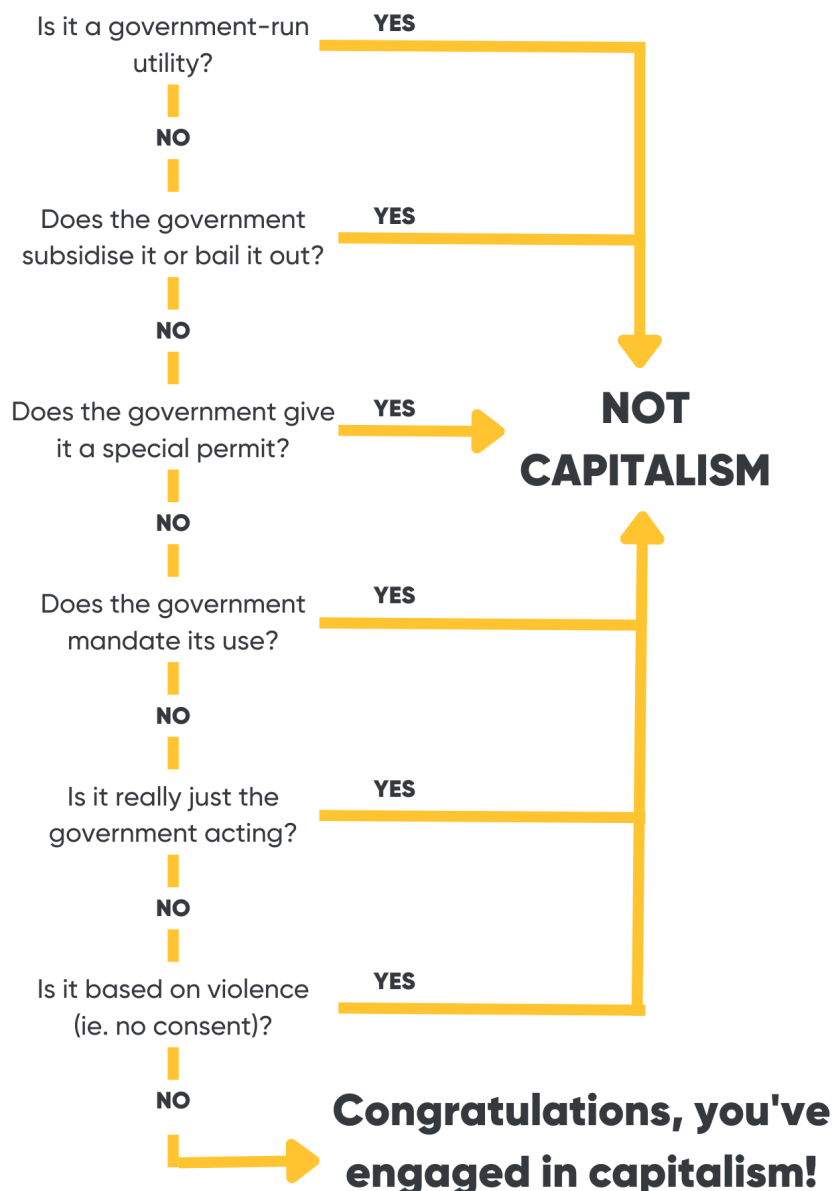
# CAPITALISM

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was correct when she said, 'Capitalism is a system that brings wealth to the many, not just the few'. Since the Industrial Revolution capitalism has lifted billions out of poverty by encouraging individuals to maximise their potential.

We make the case not only for the efficiency of capitalism, but also its inherent morality. Free markets are the product of peaceful human action, cooperation and voluntary exchange.

We reject big businesses teaming up with government to distort the free market as a form of cronyism rather than capitalism.

## IS IT CAPITALISM?



# THE NSW GOVERNMENT IS ADDICTED TO DEBT

In 2011 this Liberal-National government inherited \$7.9 billion in debt. After twelve years the NSW government debt is up ten-fold to \$78 billion! What's worse, it's set to balloon to \$114 billion by 2026. No non-Labor government in NSW history has had a cabinet with less private sector experience than this one ... and it shows.

*Table 6.1: Key balance sheet aggregates of the general government sector*

	June 2021 Actual	June 2022 Revised	June 2023 Budget	June 2024	June 2025 Forward Estimates	June 2026
Total Assets (\$m)	454,096	495,052	514,439	540,643	560,341	579,575
Financial Assets (\$m)	168,211	186,630	189,143	198,548	205,155	212,443
Non-Financial Assets (\$m)	285,884	308,421	325,296	342,095	355,186	367,132
Total Liabilities (\$m)	219,509	223,239	247,236	267,413	281,274	299,260
Net Worth (\$m)	234,587	271,812	267,203	273,230	279,067	280,316
Net Worth as a per cent of GSP <sup>(a)</sup>	36.5	39.6	35.5	34.7	34.4	33.5
Net Debt (\$m)	37,076	53,538	78,169	93,749	105,519	114,814
Net Debt as a per cent of GSP	5.8	7.8	10.4	11.9	13.0	13.7

(a) Gross State Product (GSP) for NSW from June 2022 to June 2026 is forecast by NSW Treasury.

Debt is just a promise of future taxation – stealing from our grandchildren to prop up wasteful current spending. The NSW budget is morbidly obese and we'd put a stop to it by ending pork barrelling, virtue-signalling grants and special favours. There are plenty of examples of politically-motivated wasteful spending, including:

\$800 million promised to build and renovate professional sporting stadiums in Sydney for multi-billion dollar sporting bodies. There is no reason big stadiums cannot be funded by the private sector organisations that benefit directly from them.

\$500 million promised to 'fix potholes' on roads (coincidentally often in marginal seats), while ratepayers' money in the councils in question was regularly spent on 'covid art' and 'rebranding'.

\$12 million granted to the 'Carla Zampatti Fund' to 'help female-led business startups'. We'd have a thriving private sector if politicians didn't get such a kick out of throwing around taxpayers' money on waste.



# COAL, GAS & NUCLEAR ✓

We are sceptical of the global warming orthodoxy.

'Renewables' are more accurately termed 'unreliables'. That may well change with time, but until then we must reverse policies discouraging coal and gas based energy. We should not copy the mistakes of other governments who have self-harmed by going too hard, too fast with unreliables.

NSW is coal-rich. We can drive energy prices down and recharge the private sector if we flick the coal industry switch back to "On." The only hope for a thriving renewable energy industry is if these new innovations compete in a free market energy sector where the state does not intervene.

Legalising nuclear is also well overdue, especially in uranium-rich Australia. All the nuclear energy industry wants is for the government to get out of their way – they know their product can compete in a free market. Thriving coal, gas and nuclear industries will compete against each other, making all three more efficient, and driving down energy prices.

## COVID JUSTICE ✓

We do not want the most bizarre, inhumane and pointless example of government over-reach in NSW history swept under the carpet. The risk of any "amnesty" is that we fail to learn the lessons needed when the next state-sponsored fear campaign comes along.

Using police and military, our leaders locked us down for months. They said they'd kindly release us when 80% were vaccinated. That morphed into 90% and then 95%. Almost everyone got vaccinated and most still caught COVID.

For months NSW Health has shown that hospital admissions, ICU and death rates for the unvaccinated are very similar (if not lower) than those who've had COVID shots. There is still no explanation, and no inquiry, into the 19% increase in "all cause mortality."

The NSW Liberal Democrats support a Parliamentary Inquiry into everything to do with the COVID response, including the extent of **vaccine injuries**.

At some point we'll need a more powerful Royal Commission, but currently the major parties would only appoint their mates and set terms of reference to skew findings to say our COVID response was brilliant. Once the COVID fog has lifted, we support a Royal Commission chaired by a commissioner who early on called out the hysteria (such as Dr Gigi Foster).

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VOTE **1** LIBERAL DEMOCRATS IN THE NSW ELECTION



# COLOUR BLIND

Governments should be race blind. Martin Luther King settled this when he taught us to judge others by their character and not their skin colour.

The proponents of 'positive racism' may have good intentions, but their strategy doesn't work. Encouraging individuals to believe their destiny is determined by their ancestry is a curse.

- *'Acknowledgement of Country'* and *'Welcome to Country'* should cease on NSW government property.
- We do not support race-based flags displayed on government property (including the Sydney Harbour Bridge).
- We oppose the 'Voice to Parliament' in any form, including the proposed referendum and any legislated equivalents in state parliament.

2018 Treasurer Perrottet on an Aboriginal flag on the Sydney Harbour Bridge:



*'Instead of putting the Aboriginal flag on top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge, how about just plonking a giant blank screen that can be quickly and easily updated to broadcast Labor's latest social justice warrior cause? We could call it "the NSW Labor Party Virtue Signal."*

2022 Premier Perrottet



*Let's spend \$25m and fly a racial flag permanently!*



# ABOLISH PAYROLL TAX ✓

NSW has been charging payroll tax since 1971. It is a powerful 'jobs and growth' retardant. When an entrepreneur has success in business they look to grow their staff, but once their payroll exceeds \$1.2 million a year they get whacked by the NSW government with a 5.45% tax on their staff expenses. Nothing will boost the NSW economy faster than scrapping pay roll tax.

# ABOLISH STAMP DUTY ✓

Trillions of dollars in NSW are tied up in property. We need this market to be liquid to ensure our property resources are used efficiently, but people are often stuck with property that is not ideal for them because if they sell and re-buy they face a punishing stamp duty fee.

The abolition of stamp duty will also make it easier for first home buyers to buy and start to build their wealth. This is a far better way to drive down the cost of housing than endless first home buyer schemes which distort the market.

# SLASH RED TAPE ✓

NSW is drowning in red and green tape. A report commissioned by the Institute for Public Affairs in 2017 found that red tape costs the Australian economy \$175billion per year - up to 11% of GDP - and New South Wales is not immune to this regulatory bloat. This is not just a matter of personal freedom, it's a drain on our small businesses, our productivity and our prosperity.

We advocate for the **one in, two out** approach successfully implemented by the Trump Administration in the United States in 2017. For every new regulation, two must be identified for elimination.

We also support drastically cutting 'green tape' (environmental regulations), including emissions targets, over-classification of property as "non-urban", unnecessary restrictions on private backburning, and regulations preventing the removal of trees or other vegetation on private property.



# FUND STUDENTS NOT BUREAUCRATS



While education spending has skyrocketed over the past 50 years, there is little to show for it other than bloated institutions that fail to innovate and fail to serve their students' needs, while pushing their own narrow agendas. True educational reform means taking power away from bureaucracies, and decentralising decision making towards families and individual learners.

Any government funding should go to the student through an education 'voucher'. If an educational institution is offering a valuable service, they have nothing to worry about, as people will use their education voucher there willingly. Some parents may choose a curriculum focussed on 'gender, climate change and First Nations' while others may choose a more traditional approach.

There has also been a substantial increase in home education as parents are uniquely positioned to cater to the unique needs and strengths of their children. Many were forced out of the school system due to draconian 'mandates' and never want to return. Parents should be able to start co-ops and micro schools in their homes without being forced to comply with all the regulatory burdens placed on larger institutions.

Instead of protecting the interests of outdated departments and unions, we want to see a market process where entrepreneurs can innovate and see what works. We'd have smarter, happier kids and more satisfied parents – brought to you by the invisible hand of the free market.

# SHOOTERS RIGHTS



We believe sport, hunting and self-defence are all legitimate reasons for firearm ownership.

Licensed, law-abiding shooters are not criminals in waiting or a potential public safety threat. They stand as vetted and approved law abiding owners of firearms and they should not be punished for the historical, contemporary or imagined future actions of criminals.



# RETURN TAXATION POWERS TO THE STATES

If the states exclusively had income and company taxation powers, there would be competition between them to be better stewards of public money. Political parties would campaign on reducing tax.

When Liberal or Labor campaign in a state election they no longer mention cutting or raising taxes and spending. This is because state governments are welfare dependents on the federal government.

NSW's 2022 Budget Papers confirm the state government received \$103.7 billion in revenue. Where did that come from? Around 70% came from the federal government in grants (the rest comes from stamp duty, land tax, gambling and pay roll tax).

At the time of Federation, the states were largely independent but united by a federal government that managed defence, foreign affairs and other matters the states could not.

Initially some state governments imposed an income tax, but during WWI the federal government 'temporarily' granted itself income tax power to help pay for the war. Postwar, the federal government retained income taxation powers.

During WWII the federal government also took over company tax but Milton Friedman (as usual) was correct: **'Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program.'** The states have now capitulated and let Canberra raise all the income and company tax (plus now GST, capital gains and more). Its woefully inefficient.


Malcolm Fraser, Malcolm Turnbull and Dominic Perrottet were all at one point public advocates of this mother-of-all-reforms ... but all three chickened out.

As members of the Legislative Council, Liberal Democrats will advocate for income and company tax powers to be exclusively returned to the states.







The Liberal Party has no conviction in its stated beliefs. Below is their famous 'We Believe' statement. The Liberal Party has run NSW for 12 years. Let's measure creed against performance.



*Rarely*  
↓  
**We Believe**



- *In Australia*, its people and its future. *unless unvaccinated.*
- *In the innate worth of the individual*, in the right to be independent, to own property and to achieve, and in the need to encourage initiative and personal responsibility.
- *In the basic freedoms of thought, worship, speech, association and choice.* *Not lately.*
- *In equality of opportunity*, with all Australians having the opportunity to reach their full potential in a tolerant national community.
- *In a just and humane society*, where those who cannot provide for themselves can live in dignity.
- *In the family as the primary institution* for fostering the values on which a cohesive society is built.
- *In the creation of wealth and in competitive enterprise, consumer choice and reward for effort* as the proven means of providing prosperity for all Australians. *except during lockdowns*
- *In the principle of mutual obligation*, whereby those in receipt of government benefits make some form of contribution to the community in return, where this is appropriate.
- *In the importance of voluntary effort and voluntary organisations.* *like "voluntary" vaccinations.*
- *In parliamentary democracy* as the best system for the expression and fulfilment of the aspirations of a free people.
- *In the separation and distribution of powers* as the best protection for the democratic process.
- *In a federal system of government and the decentralisation of power* with local decisions being made at the local level. *since when?*
- *In a constitutional head of state* as a symbol of unity and continuity.
- *In Government being sufficiently responsive* so that it can meet its proper obligations to its citizens.
- *In Government keeping to its core business* and not competing with the private sector. *\* congl NBN \**
- *In the rule of law and justice*, giving all citizens equal rights under the law, responsibilities to maintain it, and the freedom to change it.
- *In Australia playing a constructive role in the pursuit and maintenance of international peace* in alliance with other free nations and in assisting less advantaged peoples.
- *In Liberalism*, with its emphasis on the individual and enterprise, as the political philosophy best able to meet the demands and challenges of the 21st century.



5

*If you are a traditional Liberal or National Party voter but disappointed by their timidity in championing their own values then you are a Liberal Democrat.*

# WANT TO HELP THE NSW LIBERAL DEMOCRATS?

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