

**LIVE** 10AM TOMORROW **SKY NEWS AND DA**

# to have our say

## the new nsw

### REGIONAL AND PLANNING

THE POLICIES:

**LABOR** No major announcements. Will cap Countrylink fares. Invested \$3.5 billion from last Budget into regional roads.

**LIBERAL** 40,000 new jobs targeted for regional areas. 30 per cent of capital fund to the bush. Relocation grants of \$7000 to encourage families to move out of Sydney.

**BRUCE MILLER, Shires Association President**

We welcome Mr O'Farrell's proposed land use planning reforms and firmly believe that planning powers should be returned to local communities. We are still waiting to see the



Liberals and Nationals position on the regional issues of water and sewerage and supply, and the vital areas of addit for rural roads, community health and I We are strongly opposed to the Labor G land use planning laws and have long lot local decisions to be returned to local cc We disagree with the current funding mo emergency services and demand that a t property levy be introduced and that cos is ceased.

**Labor 4/10 Liberal 6/10**

**OUR RATING:** Coalition is fighting for the which it has lost in the past. Infrastructur is a step in right direction. Labor has poor record, reducing hospital services, unable track road improvements.

**Labor 4/10 Liberal 6/10**

### ELECTRICITY

THE POLICIES:

**LABOR** Increase energy rebate to \$250 a year. Extend energy rebate eligibility to household under \$150,000. Bungled power privatisation.

**LIBERAL** Energy rebate of \$235 to low income households. Other rebates of \$150 and \$250 to eligible families who receive Family Tax Benefit A or B. Singles and childless couples miss out. Promised judicial review into bungled power sale.



**TIM WOLFENDEN, CEO Makeitcheaper.com.au**

The Liberals seems to be getting the targeting about right, they have earmarked a good amount of cash for households in the low-income bracket. The biggest concern is that there will be some families who will still need more support and more cash to help pay for their bills.

Labor seems to be clutching at straws to get voters - slapping a \$250 discount on all households with a pot of income less than \$150,000 is simply wasting money on a whole lot of homeowners who really don't need \$250.

**Labor 4/10 Liberal 6/10**

**Our rating:** The rebates are a start for Labor after a botched electricity privatisation but it's too late. Liberals are on right track with inquiry but no intent yet to reform electricity industry to reduce prices.

**Labor 1/10 Liberal 5/10**

### TRANSPORT

THE POLICIES:

**LABOR** Will build Parramatta-Epping rail link and Western Expressway. Dumped North West rail link. Freeze public tra fares. Re-announced Circular Quay to Marrickville light rail, night buses

**LIBERAL** An extra 135 express train services a week to Cen Coast, Blue Mountains and Penrith. Have promised either M4 M5 duplication in first term. Light rail from Sydney Uni to UNS build North West/South West rail link. Dump Epping-Parramatta

**JIM DONOVAN, Action for Public Transport**

Barry O'Farrell's said he's going to build a North West rail link b he's also said he's going to appoint an infrastructure council. Why is he doing that if he's already decided what to do?

As for Labor they wasted \$500 million on a metro we're never going to have. What more can you say.

**Labor 2/10 Liberal 3/10**

**OUR RATING:** Labor's track record is poor. Has promised major project but failed to deliver. Coalition sounds promising but voters will be wary.

**Labor 4/10 Liberal 6/10**

### EDUCATION

THE POLICIES:

**LABOR** Yet to release full policy. Already committed to \$652 m school maintenance program. Schools will able to nominate local tradespeople from July.

**LIBERAL** Inject a further \$60 million into the maintenance prog Will boost teacher numbers by 900. Will roll out further school crossing flashlights.



**CHRIS BONNOR AM, leading education advocate**

If the policies cited were submitted

### DISABILITIES

THE POLICIES:

**LABOR** Double size of existing services to make system more accessible. Previously announced 6000 new jobs for disabled and payroll tax exemptions for employees. Build homes by 2017/18 instead of large centres.

**LIBERAL** Individualise funding package in cash payments to buy services they need. Government funds funding to the services.

The needs of students with disabilities have not been mentioned, a critical need that hopefully is addressed in the education policy.

And while Labor's Stronger Together is a good start, both sides need to acknowledge that the real level of unmet need will require even greater expenditure. The Coalition's emphasis on individualised packages is a major step towards enhancing dignity and very welcome, as is the commitment to strengthen community-based