

Thursday 21 June 2018

BUDGET REPLY: LABOR'S PLEDGE - NSW PRIVATISATION WILL STOP

NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley declared today that privatisation of public assets in the State will end under a Labor government.

In his Budget Reply speech today Mr Foley made a commitment that Labor will halt what he called 'this destructive privatisation scam.' Giving a guarantee that under Labor the sell-offs will stop and there will be:

- No privatisation of NSW hospitals;
- No privatisation of water;
- No more electricity privatisation; and
- No privatisation of public transport services.

Mr Foley said these are owned by the people of NSW and under Labor will be managed efficiently – and be affordable for people.

Since 2011 the Liberals and Nationals have sold off more than \$50 billion of publicly-owned assets.

Privatisation has resulted in higher electricity prices for families and small businesses, despite a pledge by former Premier Mike Baird before the last election that prices would not go up.

But prices have gone up 20 per cent this financial year and the promise that the sale of the poles and wires would pay for essential infrastructure has turned out to be a hoax. Drivers will be paying tolls into the distant future to foot the infrastructure bill.

The privatisation of NSW's ports has put a brake on the Hunter economy thanks to the secret clause the Government inserted into the contract that penalises an expansion of Newcastle Port's container terminal. The privatisation of Newcastle's buses has led to a reduction of services.

In the face of fierce opposition by the community and health workers the Liberals backed down on their plan to privatise regional hospitals in Maitland, Wyong, Goulburn, Shellharbour and Bowral, for now. But if the Coalition is re-elected the idea will be revived because it is the Liberal way.

Privatisation has also resulted in price hikes for home owners using the Land and Property Information registry which was sold off by the Berejiklian-Barilaro Government last year to pay for its \$2.2 billion stadiums splurge.

Quotes attributable to NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley

"Labor will call a halt to this destructive privatisation scam that has delivered nothing but a rise in the cost of living for working families.

"Privatisation of public assets will continue under the Liberals because that is in their DNA. Labor's commitment is that it will stop.

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‘We will keep hospitals, water, electricity, buses and trains safely in public hands. Under the Liberals the public always ends up paying and if they are elected next March privatisation will come back with a vengeance.’

Privatisation in NSW: a timeline and key sources

Year	Government enterprise	Transaction	Proceeds ³
2014	Colongra Power Station Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$233 million
	M7 rental payments	Monetisation of M7 base rent payables	\$174.2 million ³¹
2015	Vales Point Power Station Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$21.3 million
	Transgrid Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015	100% lease for 99 years	\$10.273 billion
2015	Electricity Retained Interest Corporations Act 2015		
	Kooragang Island Advanced Water Treatment Plant	Sale ³²	\$35.5 million
2016	Brown Mountain Hydro Power Station and Cochrane Dam	Sale	\$4.5 million
2016	AusGrid Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015	50.4% lease for 99 years	\$16.2 billion
	Electricity Retained Interest Corporations Act 2015		
2016	Construction Services Group, NSW Public Works	Sale	-\$0.805 million ³³
2016	Pillar Superannuation Administration Superannuation Administration Corporation (Pillar) (Authorised Transaction) Act 2016	Sale	\$35 million
	Titling and registry business of Land and Property Information Land and Property Information NSW (Authorised Transaction) Act 2016	35-year lease	\$2.6 billion
2017	Endeavour Energy Electricity Network Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2015	50.4% lease for 99 years	\$7.624 billion
	Electricity Retained Interest Corporations Act 2015		

2011	GenTrader transaction: Country Energy retail business	Sale	\$1.3 billion
2011	GenTrader transaction: Energy Australia retail business	Sale	\$1.48 billion
2011	GenTrader transaction: Integral Energy retail business	Sale	\$1 billion
2012	Sydney Desalination Plant Water Industry Competition Amendment Act 2011	100% lease for 50 years	\$2.3 billion
	Port Botany Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	100% lease for 99 years	\$4.31 billion
2013	Port Kembla Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	100% lease for 99 years	\$760 million
2013	Earing Energy Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$657 million
	Mt Piper and Wallerawang Power Stations (Delta West) Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$475 million
2014	Port of Newcastle Ports Assets (Authorised Transactions) Amendment Act 2013	100% lease for 98 years	\$1.75 billion
2014	Green State Power Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$72 million
	Bayswater and Liddell Power Stations (Macquarie Generation) ²⁸ Electricity Generator Assets (Authorised Transactions) Act 2012	Sale	\$1.505 billion
2014	Hunter Water Australia Pty Ltd	Sale	\$6.816 million ³⁰

²⁷ Sale proceeds

²⁸ Sale proceeds

²⁹ This sale included assets formerly held by Macquarie Generation, including the Bayswater and Liddell coal-fired power stations

[Extracts above from NSW Parliamentary Library Report ‘Privatisation in NSW – a timeline and key sources’]