

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



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WESTERN VICTORIANS WILL PAY FOR LABOR'S RECKLESS SPENDING

Labor's reckless spending is out of control, Federal Member for Wannon David Hawker said today.

"The release this week of the *Commonwealth Coordinator-General's Progress Report* on the Government's *Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan* demonstrates the flawed, wasteful and poorly targeted nature of the Rudd Government's \$42 billion in spending," Mr Hawker said.

"This report reveals that a measly 370 projects out of 33,000 approved projects have been completed – just one per cent of the total projects.

"The report also reveals that the Government's bungled Building the Education Revolution programme has blown out by \$1.5 billion, with poor controls to ensure taxpayer's money is well spent.

"The pink batts programme has been dumped for renters and an unknown amount of the money borrowed to pay for the programme is going overseas to China, and their public housing programme is in disarray, hopelessly behind schedule."

Mr Hawker said the revelation of Labor's cost blow out shows just how rushed, ill considered and poorly targeted Labor's stimulus package was.

"Instead of using savings to reduce debt, Labor is spending even more borrowed taxpayers money. Labor's spending is all about their own self promotion and politics, not our economy," he said.

"Under new guidelines the Government is demanding schools display promotional government signs prominently on roadsides until March 2011, after the next Federal election. This demand for mandatory publicity of their spending is shameless.

"Labor's reckless and wasteful spending will mean higher debt, higher interest rates and higher taxes for Western Victorians.

"Kevin Rudd is running the highest spending Government since the second world war. He is addicted to spending borrowed money," he said.

Mr Hawker said Labor is ignoring the consensus among economists and business leaders to reign in their reckless 'stimulus' spending.

"Kevin Rudd is pursuing a political strategy to spend more borrowed money in marginal seats, rather than reducing the debt burden on future generations," he said.

"He has refused to rule out new taxes, including a tax on the family home and increases in income tax.

"It's becoming all too clear that Western Victorians will be paying for decades for Labor's shameless addiction to spending what isn't theirs."

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