

MEDIA RELEASE



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



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ALL WESTERN VICTORIANS WILL PAY FOR LABOR DEBT

The Labor Government this week announced the final outcome of the 2008-09 Budget which showed an underlying cash deficit of \$27.1 Billion.

This is the biggest federal budget deficit in modern Australian history. It represents over \$1,200 for every man, woman and child in Western Victoria and Australia.

And now interest rates are going up, because Labor simply can't stop spending.

The RBA Governor has confirmed that government spending will continue to put upward pressure on interest rates. Australia currently has the highest interest rates in the OECD – higher than the UK, Europe, USA, Canada, Japan and New Zealand just to name a few.

Labor cannot keep spending money at these historical levels and expect interest rates to remain low.

The RBA Governor this week confirmed once again that Australia is emerging stronger from the Global financial crisis, because we entered it stronger – thanks to the prudent financial management of the Coalition.

Contrary to the Labor Treasurer's claims that the global financial crisis has taken a "wrecking ball to revenues", year on year revenues are down just 1.6 per cent. This is in contrast to expenses which are up \$44.5 billion, an increase of around 16 per cent over the year.

Now Labor refuse to take the hard decision to reign in their reckless spending to keep interest rates low

Lower interest rates will support jobs, keep people in their homes and support our economy. But the Labor Government obviously deems it a higher priority to continue spending to promote themselves, rather than reduce their reckless spending to keep interest rates low and support jobs and our economy.

They are spending to benefit their own political interests and not for the economic benefit of Western Victorians.

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