

Our Vision – Regional Victoria



Our Vision

Fast Rail: Maglev Fast Rail to Geelong & Ballarat.

Regular Regional Transport: More regular and reliable 'clockface' train and coach services to regional towns.

Eco Tax Shift: Shifting tax from land to water encourages more efficient water use. No vehicle rego tax.

Active Decentralisation: Shifting services and employment to the regional centres.

More Water: Saving water to "plug the pipe".



Lake Eildon (Murray Darling Commission)

More Public Transport – Not More City Freeways

- **Maglev Fast Rail:** To Melbourne, Avalon Geelong, Ballarat and Melbourne Airport at up to 500 km/h!
- **More Regional Trains:** Existing trains displaced by the Maglev Fast Rail system used to increase services to the regions.
- **Clockface services:** As far as possible get all services running on a regular pattern such as once per hour or half hour.
- **Removing Level Crossings:** Standard road overpasses can be mass-produced to economically replace dangerous level crossings.

This can be funded by re-directing the billions of dollars allocated to building city freeways and tunnels.

Active Decentralisation

- **Health Services:** A shift of funding away from the major Melbourne hospitals to the regional centres.
- **Government Departments:** Gradually shift parts of government departments to regional centres.
- **Maglev Fast Rail:** Making Geelong and Ballarat suburbs of Melbourne opens up new business opportunities in these regions.



The Transrapid maglev fast rail system that that could link Geelong, Balarat & Melbourne.

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Eco Tax Shift

- **No Rego:** Vehicle registration to be replaced by electronic congestion charges which would mostly be on inner city roads.
- **No Rates, No Land Tax:** On irrigated land tax would be shifted to water instead of on land.
- **Shifting tax to Carbon:** We propose shifting tax from payroll to coal, encouraging employment.

More Water

- **City Water Pricing:** Setting city water prices entirely on usage and increasing prices for excess water use would reduce water wastage.
- **Recycling Water:** We support measures such as recycling storm water to reduce urban demand for water.
- **Less Logging:** Stopping logging in Melbourne's catchments helps eliminate the need for the North-South pipeline and increases stream flows to other rivers.
- **Turning off the North South Pipeline:** The above measures mean the North South pipeline will not be needed.

Farming the Sun & Wind

- **More renewables:** Shifting tax on to carbon will increase demand for renewable energy creating new opportunities for farming communities.
- **Carbon farming:** We are interested in finding new ways to encourage farmers to store carbon on their land using soil management techniques.

Water Buyback

To a large extent this should not be necessary as the water price created through swapping various taxes on to water should reduce demand.

However, some water buy-back may still be required.

Farm Exit Packages

This still needs to be considered where farms now have little or no economic potential. The effected farmers could be paid to help re-plant their land with native vegetation.

Removing market barriers to water trade

The existing state imposed restrictions on water trade are hindering environmental water purchase, restricting economic activity and slowing structural adjustment. The 4 percent cap on permanent trade out of irrigation districts is rapidly losing support among the communities it was intended to protect and should be removed at the earliest opportunity.