

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM, 23 November, 2026

BUSINESS UNITES TO GET VICTORIA FIRING AGAIN

Business leaders have come together to help the next Victorian government deal with the economic challenges facing our state and the business community.

Representing all industry sectors, business leaders are jointly committing to work in a united way with the next Government, across all economic and industry portfolios.

Our view is clear, we want to be a state where businesses of all sizes can compete, invest and grow with confidence. Where the settings on tax, energy, regulation and skills are designed to enable enterprise. And where government and business work as genuine partners to build long term prosperity for all Victorians.

Immediately after the election, we will convene a business roundtable, to determine how we can support and add value to government policies, with the aim of turning Victoria's economy around.

Victoria has enormous strengths, but we need to rediscover the confidence, ambition and the entrepreneurial spark that built this State.

Australian Industry Group, Victoria Head and Chair of VCEA, Tim Piper:

Business groups have shown they're able to work together and we want to continue that under the next Government. We want to build the economy together between businesses and the next Government.

Victorian Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Sally Curtain:

"This is bigger than any one industry or any one election. Business is coming together with a simple ambition: make Victoria the best place in Australia to invest, employ and grow. The next chapter for Victoria should be written with business, not written for business."

Business Council Chief Executive, Bran Black:

“Victoria has the people and the ambition to be the nation’s economic powerhouse again, but our Regulation Rumble report ranks it last in the country for ease of doing business. Business stands ready to work with the next government to cut red tape, back investment and turn that around.”

Victorian Farmers Federation President, Ryan Milgate:

“Agriculture is a major source of competitive advantage for Victoria and an economic powerhouse. Victorian farmers work just three per cent of Australia's agricultural land, yet produce almost a quarter of the nation's farm output by value. We’re ready to work with the next government to maximise that advantage and grow our world class farm sector.”

Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce CEO, Peter Jones:

“Victoria’s automotive industry plays a vital role in keeping Victorians moving. The Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC) stands with the broader business community, ready to work with the next Government on practical solutions that strengthen our economy and help Victorian businesses thrive.”

Victorian Transport Association CEO, Peter Anderson:

“As Victoria enters a new era of Government Victorian Transport Association supports the call for a renewed focus on economic growth, competitiveness and business confidence. The VTA will continue to advocate for practical policy and legislative reforms that improve productivity across the freight and logistics industry.”

Master Builders Victoria CEO, Michaela Lihou:

“You can't solve Victoria's housing shortage without a thriving building and construction industry. If we want more homes, we need to make it easier to build them. The next Government needs practical reforms that cut red tape, attract skilled trades, and develop reforms that get more homes under construction.”

Committee for Melbourne Chief Executive, Cath Evans:

“Melbourne became a great city because people backed ideas, took risks and built businesses. We need to recapture that spirit of enterprise and make Victoria a place where ambition is rewarded again. We have a great business spirit. Having policies to which align to a collective growth mindset is essential.”

Urban Development Institute of Australia CEO, Linda Allison:

“We can and we must reposition Victoria as a premier property investment and development destination: a world class place to invest, develop, work, study and live. The next government must genuinely partner with industry to create the best possible

economic and living conditions for Victorians. We have the ambition, we have the workforce and we have the expertise."

Australian Retail Council Chief Policy Officer and Chief Economist, Glenn Fahey:

"Victoria has long held the mantle as the retail capital of Australia. To retain that privilege, it needs to stare into some big challenges the sector is facing, whether that's retail crime, overregulation or the growing tax burden. Retail is a massive job creator in the State, and we know that with the right settings it can ensure that role it plays continues well into the future. The next government can expect our fullest commitment to that cause."

Minerals Council of Australia Executive Director, James Sorahan:

"Victoria has a golden opportunity to embrace the opportunities for our state from mining. Gold and critical minerals can create prosperity for Victorian communities and families while providing long-term, highly paid regional jobs."

Property Council of Australia Group Executive Policy and Advocacy, Matthew Kandelaars:

"The Victorian Government cannot keep treating business like an ATM and then wonder why investment confidence is crashing. We need a business renaissance and a government that prioritises partnership, investment, jobs and economic growth.

Pharmacy Guild of Australia Victoria Branch Director, Rachel Obradovic:

"A strong Victorian economy needs strong local businesses and accessible essential services. Community pharmacies are both. By backing small business, reducing unnecessary red-tape and making better use of our highly skilled pharmacy workforce, the next Victorian Government can strengthen the economy while delivering better healthcare closer to home."

Housing Industry Association Executive Director Victoria, Keith Ryan:

"Victoria's population continues to grow, and we need more homes built. Builders want to build and have the capacity to build the homes people want to live in. They need the next government to fix tax settings and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, so they have the chance to build these homes."

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