

Victoria picks our pockets

Paul Nicolaou



Watch out Sydney, Victoria is on the road to a make or break election for Premier

Jacinta Allan and her beleaguered government.

It's a safe bet that buckets of money will be heading from Canberra to Melbourne between now and the November poll.

Our Premier Chris Minns and Treasurer Daniel Mookhey are right to call out their federal colleagues for promising another \$3.8bn to Melbourne's suburban rail loop project.

Both are obviously keen to ensure no more buckets of money leave Canberra for Melbourne to save the Allan government at Sydney's expense.

According to Chris Minns and Daniel Mookhey, Victoria is

getting almost half as much more per person than NSW in federal infrastructure spending.

State political editor James O'Doherty wrote that the Minns government hadn't helped itself by having few big infrastructure projects in the pipeline beyond 2032. Priming the pipeline to maintain economic growth, address the infrastructure needs of our city and increase housing supply must be the priority.

Business Sydney wants the government to embrace extending the light rail network from Kingsford to La Perouse. This should include repurposing the Long Bay correctional precinct and building a new jail complex in regional NSW.

Extending the light rail to La Perouse and using the Long Bay precinct could bring more than

50,000 new homes. Light rail along the length of Parramatta Rd to link to stage 1 and stage 2 of the Parramatta light rail system would be a natural next step.

Business Sydney recently held a summit on the La Perouse extension. A recurring theme was that the Sydney Metro was not only a game-changer, but also an eye-opener.

It showed we are capable of building big things and that we can and should do much more.

There is no point complaining about money going to resuscitate a struggling government in Victoria if we don't have big plans of our own.

Paul Nicolaou is executive director of Business Sydney