

## Liberal Nationals Coalition Media Release

Phone: 9651 8993 • Fax: 9651 8736

Email: [matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:matthew.guy@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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### BRUMBY'S PLAN TO NOBBLE VCAT

**John Brumby says Labor and VCAT will '*work in partnership to fast-track development*', declaring Victoria's civil justice court will no longer make decisions independently.**

John Brumby has declared that his new interventionist planning regime will see the Labor Government and the supposedly independent civil justice tribunal VCAT '*working in partnership to see how many (planning) projects can be fast-tracked*' in Victoria.

This is the first time a state government has actively sought to influence the outcome of independent planning decisions made by VCAT and is an outrageous breach of the separation of powers.

"This admission by John Brumby that Labor will seek to control and direct the independent decisions and hearings held at VCAT in its headlong rush to steamroll legitimate community views is a disgrace," Mr Guy said.

"The arrogant and dictatorial attitude of John Brumby in claiming the government and independent tribunals can '*work in partnership*' shows Labor is more interested in its own political interests than the people of Victoria.

"How can Victorians have confidence in the independence of the VCAT system if John Brumby has declared Victoria's independent civil justice court will work hand-in-hand with Labor to fast-track the preferred projects of the Labor Government and their mates?

"VCAT is independent so planning disputes can be resolved fairly and freely, but apparently it will no longer be independent because of the arrogance of John Brumby.

"John Brumby's dictatorial declaration is especially dangerous for Victoria because this state lacks an independent broad-based anti-corruption commission which would protect Victorians from the threat of corruption infecting the planning process.

"There are no checks and balances to prevent Labor mates corrupting the planning process with backhand payments and donations to the Labor Party.

"John Brumby's announcement gives the green light for New South Wales-style planning corruption to take root in Victoria without the essential oversight provided by an independent, broad-based anti-corruption commission," Mr Guy said.

**Media: Matthew Guy 0400 001 282**