



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVT WAGES POLICY PASSES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today welcomed the passage of the NSW Government's wages policy legislation through the Legislative Council, a policy which could save taxpayers an estimated \$1.96 billion over the next four years.

Mr O'Farrell said the Bill passed after a marathon sitting of the Upper House, due to the gross abuse of parliamentary procedures by Labor and the Greens, who tried to sabotage the legislation at every turn.

"This is a good outcome for the people of NSW. It will help bring costs under control and enable more money to be spent on services," Mr O'Farrell said.

"With the passing of this legislation in the Upper House, we have taken a significant step towards bringing the state's finances under control while protecting fair wage increases for public servants.

"The policy means NSW public servants will receive fair pay rises – and there will be an incentive for them to secure further rises by making savings.

"Treasury had estimated that if we had not acted to ensure wages increases above 2.5 per cent were matched by savings, the impact on the State's Budget over the next four years would be in the order of \$1.96 billion.

"The fact that this significant amount of money has been saved means it can now be used to deliver better services to the people of NSW, including more nurses, teachers and police.

"Labor's contempt of the parliamentary process over the past few days belies the fact this legislation only ever sought to enforce Labor's own wages policy.

"While I support the right of every Member of Parliament to speak on legislation, the Government was not prepared to let the Parliament descend into farce which is exactly what had happened with Labor and Greens Members delivering speeches up to six hours in length.

“I want to pay tribute to the tireless Parliamentary staff for their efforts over the past few days who, for no fault of their own, were caught up in the childish games of Labor and the Greens,” Mr O’Farrell said.

While it was the NSW Government’s intention to have all public servants covered by the policy, it has agreed to an amendment moved by crossbench MPs to have uniformed police excluded from the policy. The bill will now go to the Legislative Assembly for debate.

Any NSW Government wages policy that is deemed to be unfair will be able to be disallowed by the Legislative Council.