



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 3 June 2011

CROSSBENCH SUPPORT A WIN FOR TAXPAYERS

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today welcomed the support of key Upper House crossbench MPs for the NSW Government's wages policy legislation.

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

Mr O'Farrell said it was always his preference for the wages policy to apply to all public servants.

But he said crossbench MPs in the Upper House had sought to have uniformed police excluded from the legislation.

"I appreciate the views of the crossbenchers that there are special circumstances relating to the police so we have agreed to the police exemption," Mr O'Farrell said.

"It means that, by making this change, we can take a significant step towards bringing the State's finances under control.

"Under this policy we will be able to strike a balance between delivering fair wages for public servants while keeping the budget under control.

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

Mr O'Farrell said he was appalled by the games being played by Labor and the Greens in the Upper House to delay a vote on the legislation

"I support the right of every Member of Parliament to speak on any legislation before the House," he said.

"But Labor and the Greens are treating the Parliament as a joke by having their MPs speak for up to six hours on the Bill.

"The legislation actually allows the NSW Parliament to disallow the Government's wages policy if it deems it unfair.

"So it is nothing short of disgraceful for Labor and the Greens to abuse the Parliament to cause trouble and delay the introduction of this important legislation."