



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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STRONGER POWERS FOR CRIME COMMISSION TO CONFISCATE PROCEEDS OF CRIME

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today introduced legislation to strengthen the powers of the NSW Crime Commission to confiscate the proceeds of crime following recent investigations by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

“The community was rightly outraged by the revelations from the ICAC, which found mining leases at Doyles Creek, Mt Penny and Glendon Brook were tainted by serious corruption involving former Labor Ministers Ian Macdonald and Eddie Obeid,” Mr O'Farrell said.

“The actions of Ian Macdonald and others found by the ICAC to have been corrupt have not only denied the State millions of dollars in revenue, they have damaged the reputation of NSW as a destination for investment.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is now cleaning up the mess left to us by Labor and ensuring there is no repeat of the corrupt activities of the former Government.

“In December last year the ICAC released its final report on Operations Jasper and Acacia which recommended that action be taken to claw back some of the profits made by those involved in this sorry saga.

“This legislation will assist the Crime Commission to take action to ensure that ill-gotten proceeds can be recovered not only from those personally involved in criminal conduct but also others, including their family members and associates, whom they were seeking to benefit.

“This legislation will strengthen the existing Criminal Assets Recovery regime, in the face of increasingly sophisticated efforts by criminals to hide the proceeds of crime from the State.

“Legislation is also being introduced today to ensure that in the future disreputable people are not granted mining licences.

“Under the proposed change the Minister for Resources will be able to cancel, or refuse to grant or renew a mining licence, if he considers that the applicant is not a ‘fit and proper person’.

“The legislation introduced today follows steps taken earlier this year by the NSW Government to cancel the exploration licences for Doyles Creek, Mt Penny and Glendon Brook that were the subject of the ICAC findings.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government is taking strong action to ensure a line can finally be drawn underneath this shameful chapter of Labor corruption.”