



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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BRIAN TAMBERLIN QC TO HEAD ELECTRICITY SALE INQUIRY

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced that the Honourable Brian Tamberlin QC will head the Special Commission of Inquiry into the sale of NSW's electricity assets.

Mr O'Farrell said he was determined to uncover the truth about the asset sale and the impact on NSW taxpayers.

He said the Inquiry would determine whether there had been any breaches of probity during the sale of the assets and what steps the Government should take to give families a better deal.

"The sale of electricity assets was a sorry saga in the dying days of the former Labor Government," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The sale was conducted in a cloak of secrecy just before Parliament was shamefully shut down to avoid any scrutiny of the deal.

"I committed to a full Inquiry into the sale – and that promise will be delivered."

Mr O'Farrell said Justice Tamberlin is currently an Acting Judge of Appeal of the Supreme Court.

He was admitted to the Bar in 1967 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1981.

He has experience in the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. He was appointed Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2009.

Mr O'Farrell said the Special Commission of Inquiry would investigate whether the deal complied with applicable laws, policies and practices, including the circumstances surrounding the resignation of directors of Eraring Energy and Delta Electricity.

It will also consider the value for money achieved for the State and the benefits and costs, including potential risks and liabilities, of the electricity transactions.

Mr O'Farrell said the Special Commission of Inquiry would also provide advice on ways to promote competitive electricity prices and guarantee reliability of supply.

Mr O'Farrell said Justice Tamberlin would have access to experts from the electricity industry as required.

He said an initial report would be delivered within four months with a final report covering all the terms of reference due in six months.

"This will be an open inquiry – and anyone with information can provide evidence," he said.

"There has been too much cover-up and suspicion around this deal and the time has come to find the truth.

"The Special Commission of Inquiry will have the widest ranging powers – and its findings will form the basis for our electricity plans in the future."

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