



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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WAGES POLICY PASSES NSW PARLIAMENT

Legislation to ensure future public sector wage increases are fair and affordable has passed the NSW Parliament, Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

Mr O'Farrell said despite a hysterical and hypocritical fear campaign orchestrated by Labor, the Greens and union bosses, the NSW Government had taken a significant step towards bringing the State's finances under control.

"With the passing of this key legislation, an estimated \$1.96 billion has been saved over the next four years – that's money that can now be spent on vital infrastructure and better frontline services, including more police, nurses and teachers," Mr O'Farrell said.

"This legislation strikes a balance between maintaining the real value of wages for public servants and the ability of the Budget to fund wage increases.

"NSW public servants will still receive fair pay rises of at least 2.5 per cent – and there will be an incentive for them to secure further rises by making savings.

"The legislation ensures the wages policy of the previous Labor Government is enforced.

"That's why the campaign run by Labor has been so hypocritical – it is a policy Labor put in place when in government, but by not ensuring promised savings were actually delivered, the cost to taxpayers has been in excess of \$900 million.

"Labor's hypocrisy on this issue is also shown by the fact this policy is in line with 2.5 per cent wages policies introduced by Labor Governments in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania.

"The Industrial Relations Commission will continue to play a key role in assisting parties to identify the necessary savings to achieve higher wage increases.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals were elected with a sweeping mandate to fix NSW and that includes restoring integrity to the State's Budget - this policy delivers on that election commitment.

"We will keep taking the tough decisions to improve the lives of all people in NSW through better services and infrastructure," Mr O'Farrell said.