



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 20 March 2014

LABOR REJECTS COMMUNITY'S CALL FOR TOUGH ACTION AGAINST DRUG AND ALCOHOL-FUELLED VIOLENCE

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Attorney General Greg Smith SC today expressed concern and disappointment at Labor's failure to heed the community's call for tough action against the scourge of drug and alcohol-fuelled violence.

Labor combined with the Greens and Shooters and Fishers Party to vote down legislation introducing mandatory minimum sentences for serious drug and alcohol-fuelled violence. The NSW Government's legislation has been supported by victims of drug and alcohol-fuelled violence and the NSW Police Association.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has heard the community's calls for tough action and we introduced legislation to the Parliament to do just that, but Labor has watered it down to give violent thugs a 'get of our jail free' card," Mr O'Farrell said.

"In addition to giving judges the option to avoid the mandatory minimum sentence, Labor has also removed mandatory minimum jail sentences for wounding offences including stabbings, glassings and other assaults that result in serious wounds.

"The Labor Leader promised he wouldn't play politics with mandatory minimum sentences, but sadly his game-playing has handed judges an excuse to allow violent thugs to roam the streets.

"Given the choice of standing up for the community or siding with the thugs – the Labor Party has chosen the thugs," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Smith said Labor talked tough earlier in the year about tackling drug and alcohol-fuelled violence, but it failed to follow it through in the Parliament.

"The families of victims of some these violent assaults and frontline police have made their position clear," he said.

Fady "Freddie" Taiba told 2GB earlier today: *"They [Labor] just don't understand. I think they just don't get it. They don't have the guts like the Liberal Government to put laws [in place] that tackle this problem because we need to stamp it out."*

NSW Police Association media release today: *"The Police Association of NSW supports the NSW Government's Crimes Amendment (Intoxication) Bill 2014 and strongly opposes any watering down of the legislation."*

