



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 24 April 2012

NSW GOVT CONGRATULATES POLICE ON OVERNIGHT ARRESTS

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Minister for Police and Emergency Services Mike Gallacher today congratulated the NSW Police Force on the overnight arrest of two people in relation to the Merrylands shootings.

This follows the arrest over the weekend of the person accused of torching a police vehicle. He's been charged and refused bail.

"The NSW Police Force is getting results and arresting these thugs," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Gallacher said Operation Spartan has made 322 arrests, laid 566 charges, including 23 for drive-by shooting offences, seized 39 firearms, and searched over 1,200 vehicles.

"The NSW Government has given the Police the powers and the resources to crackdown on criminal behaviour," he said.

Since being elected just over a year ago, the NSW Government has taken action to crackdown on organised crime, including:

- Commenced the recruitment of an extra 550 police officers;
- Strengthened consorting offences, including modernising them to include email, text messages and other electronic forms of communication;
- Toughened drive-by shooting penalties;
- Re-enacted Outlaw Motorcycle Gang laws which enable Police to apply to have bikie gangs declared criminal organisations prohibiting gang members from associating with each other;
- Introduced legislation to tighten the supply of ammunition;
- Called in the NSW Crime Commission which has royal commission style powers to compel witnesses to co-operate with investigators;
- Banning bikies from owning or operating tattoo parlours;
- Barring bikies from wearing their colours in 58 venues in Kings Cross;
- Stopped prisoners who commit offences from changing their name;
- Urged the Federal Government to increase border protection to stop illegal weapons coming into the country – including getting discussion of the issue brought forward;
- Pushed for a national approach to bikie laws as the best way to combat organised crime.