



Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 21 March 2013

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

The NSW Government will introduce a bill to the Parliament which replicates the Queensland anti-bikie legislation, while retaining key elements of the current NSW model, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Attorney General Greg Smith SC said.

"We're determined to get these tough new laws in place by Easter," Mr O'Farrell said.

"We did the prudent thing, waited for the High Court ruling on the Queensland laws. After careful examination, we've modified our bill.

"The NSW Government is determined to have outlaw motorcycle gangs declared criminal organisations.

"These laws will give police the power to protect the public from criminal gangs."

Mr Smith said the amended legislation will adopt the Queensland model:

- for the Supreme Court, rather than an eligible judge, to make decisions on applications to declare an organisation a criminal organisation;
- for the Supreme Court to decide what is criminal intelligence; and,
- by appointing a criminal intelligence monitor to monitor applications under the Act and to test and make submissions about their appropriateness by appointing a monitor to assist the court in these matters and represent community interest.

"The amendments should also give the community extra confidence that due process is being followed in these applications," Mr Smith said.

"We have repeatedly called on the Federal Government to introduce uniform national laws, and they have rejected this proposal again and again.

"Police are already getting results in crackdown down on outlaw motorcycle gangs.

"Through Operation Spartan, the Police have so far laid over 1,100 charges and made 660 arrests."

This will add to the additional powers already provided to the Police by the NSW Government including:

- additional 300 police by this Government.
- We've also given police additional powers to crackdown on gun related crime.
- We've strengthened consorting offences.
- Toughened drive-by shooting penalties.
- 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.
- Introduced a licensing scheme with stringent probity checks for owners and operators of tattoo parlours.
- Banned bikies wearing their colours in 58 venues in Kings Cross;
- And laws passed the parliament last night to stop criminals from putting forward ambush defences – shamefully opposed by NSW Labor.

ENDS

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