



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT BANS LOBBYIST SUCCESS FEES

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced legislation would be introduced to Parliament to ban lobbyist success fees in NSW.

These so-called success fees are payments over and above the normal service fees when a desired outcome is achieved for a client.

"This is a move which will help clean up politics in NSW, corrects years of shady deals under Labor and is the fulfilment of yet another election commitment," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Lobbyist success fees not only raise questions about access, but also decisions," he said.

"Those fees create incentives for lobbyists to cut ethical corners and undermine public confidence in government. It can create a climate conducive to corruption.

"The community voted to shut the back door in NSW – and I'm slamming it, bolting it and throwing away the key."

This legislation will provide the following penalties:

- Fines of up to \$55,000 for a corporation, \$22,000 for an individual; and,
- Success fee to be confiscated.

In addition, if a lobbyist charges a success fee - contrary to the new laws - they face the risk of de-registration. The Director General of the Department of Premier and Cabinet can remove lobbyists from the register, or refuse to register them at all, if their conduct has been unethical.

"This ban is supported by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and follows a similar ban by the Queensland Labor Government," he said.

"The former Labor Government failed to implement the recommendations of the ICAC in unbelievably refusing to ban the payment of success fees.

"Political lobbying is a legitimate activity but it must be done appropriately and in accordance with proper ethical standards," Mr O'Farrell said.

MEDIA: Premier's office 9228 5239