



# **The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP**

## **Premier of NSW**

### **Minister for Western Sydney**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Tuesday 31 May 2011

### **NSW TO OPPOSE GILLARD-WILKIE REFORMS**

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell and Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner today committed the NSW Government to fighting the Gillard-Wilkie poker machines reforms because of the devastating impact they could have on jobs and local clubs.

Today is the deadline for the Federal Government to reach a deal on pre-commitment for poker machines on the Gillard-Wilkie reforms.

"If the Gillard-Wilkie reforms proceed, it will cost NSW taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars and up to 16,000 jobs across the clubs industry," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government supports voluntary pre-commitment programs where people feel the need to limit their spending, but we will not be held to ransom by a Tasmanian member of the Federal Parliament who secured less than 14,000 votes," he said.

"If Federal Labor proceeds with this ill-considered reform, there has to be compensation paid to NSW for the revenue we will lose.

"Otherwise, we will be looking to the Commonwealth to tell the people of NSW which hospitals, which schools, which police stations and which other facilities are going to be closed or not built," Mr O'Farrell said.

Mr Stoner said it's time the NSW Labor Leader came clean on his position.

"Around two thirds of registered clubs in this State are in regional NSW, and all those clubs are important to regional communities and worth fighting for," Mr Stoner said.

"As Leader of the NSW Nationals, I am often invited to clubs right across regional NSW and have seen firsthand the central role they play in communities," he said.

"Regional clubs employ over 25,000 people – frighteningly, it is estimated 6,721 employees will lose their jobs as a result of the Gillard/Wilkie deal.

"We are not prepared to stand idly by as thousands of jobs across regional NSW disappear and we will continue to stand up for clubs and regional communities," Mr Stoner said.