



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAMBERLIN REPORT OUTLINES OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

The NSW Government will consider the recommendations of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the electricity industry, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell said today.

Mr O'Farrell said the Government had always said it would be guided by the experts when determining the future use of electricity assets.

He said the report by the Honourable Brian Tamberlin QC recommended that:

- Legislation be enacted to enable the sale or long term lease of the Eraring, Delta West, Delta Coastal and Macquarie Generation generators;
- The development sites be sold by the Government;
- The Government sell the Cobbora mine;
- The Government determine its objectives for the network businesses and determine whether they should remain in public ownership or be sold in part or in full; and,
- The Government obtain expert advice on the timing and implementation of the recommendations – given there are several reviews to be finalised in 2012 which may affect the value of the network businesses.

Mr O'Farrell said the report confirmed that Labor's sale of the gentrader rights was the "second best option"^[1] which had generated gross proceeds of \$5.3 billion.

He said the inquiry found the sale and legal processes were reasonable and appropriate.

"What was not appropriate was the way this sale was done in a late night deal with Parliament shut down to avoid any scrutiny," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The people of NSW passed their own judgement on that process adopted by the former Labor Government at the election in March this year."

Mr O'Farrell said the NSW Government was now focussed on the future and would consider the recommendations of the Inquiry.

"I appointed this inquiry to provide expert advice on the best way to deal with the State's electricity assets," he said.

"We are now in a position to make informed decisions and the Government will make a determination on the way forward by Christmas," he said.

^[1] Executive summary, page xx, paragraph 98