



# The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

## Premier of NSW

### Minister for Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday 20 April 2012

### **ABBOTT GREEN TAPE REFORMS WELCOMED**

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today welcomed the Federal Coalition's policy to simplify the environmental assessment process for major projects.

Mr O'Farrell said allowing States to be 'one stop shops' would cut the time taken in the environmental assessment process and reduce the costly and unnecessary duplication that occurs under current arrangements.

"This is sensible policy – it shows the Federal Coalition is serious about creating a business environment that will stimulate investment and create jobs," Mr O'Farrell said

"Unnecessary 'green tape' at the Commonwealth level is costing jobs, driving up costs, and holding back economic growth.

"The additional Commonwealth processes can add significant time to assess a proposal.

"The business sector has been highlighting the costs and delays that occur when project proposals are forced to go through two sets of assessment and approval processes, often asking the same questions at each stage.

"These costs affect Australia's competitiveness as a destination for investment, and create risks for the nation's project pipeline.

"Streamlining assessment and approval processes in no way diminishes environmental protection measures and this would allow Commonwealth laws to be assessed at the same time as NSW laws.

"Tony Abbott's policy reflects the thrust of the position I took to COAG and responds to the concerns raised by businesses operating in NSW."