



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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PARLIAMENT TO SIT UNTIL WORKCOVER REFORM IS RESOLVED

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today announced the NSW Parliament would not rise for the winter recess until the Government's WorkCover reforms have been voted on by both Houses.

Mr O'Farrell said the Government would introduce legislation after a parliamentary committee concludes its inquiry into WorkCover and makes its recommendations.

"Reform is vital to workers, employers and the State's economy," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The former Labor Government let WorkCover fall into a heap - a \$4.1 billion deficit at December 2011 means the scheme is unsustainable.

"Without changes Pricewaterhouse Coopers advises that workers' compensation premiums would need to rise by 28 per cent to get the scheme back into the black.

"That would be devastating for employees and employers alike.

"We want to avoid this massive impost on NSW businesses and the potential job losses that will follow by making the scheme sustainable in the long term.

"Parliament will deal with the reforms expeditiously because business and injured workers can't afford to wait.

"The parliamentary committee is due to hand its report to government on 13 June and, guided by the committee's recommendations, the Government will introduce legislation shortly afterwards.

"Rather than adjourn as scheduled on 21 June, Parliament will continue to meet until the bill to reform WorkCover has been voted on by both Houses.

"The Government is determined to right the wrongs that have been done to our State's workers and employers.

"We will fix Labor's mess and we will fix it expeditiously."

ENDS