



Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMON SENSE MUST PREVAIL ON CROWN LAND USE

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today urged common sense to prevail within Labor, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers parties and support a minor change to laws surrounding the use of Crown land by communities across NSW.

Mr O'Farrell said a minor administrative amendment in Parliament was needed to allow businesses and community groups currently operating on Crown land to stay open.

"A recent court ruling could force surf clubs, bushfire brigades, the CWA, Scouts and Girl Guides – as well as commercial facilities such as aged care homes and kiosks to stop their operations and close down," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Without a minor change to existing laws these valued community services and businesses would be considered legally invalid and forced to close.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government does not want to see this happen and we are proposing an amendment in Parliament to allow these businesses and community groups to stay open.

"However, Labor, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers are threatening to block the change and stand by as these operations are forced to move off Crown land, or enter a lengthy and expensive legal process to validate their existing licenses.

"The NSW Government's Bill provides legal certainty to up to 7,000 community and commercial facilities operating on secondary tenures on Crown land.

"It's a real shame thousands of businesses and community groups are being used as political pawns in this low political stunt – when it was the former Labor Government that created around 3,500 of the secondary tenures in the first place.

"This is about validating –not selling – existing leases and licences on Crown land and the NSW Government is urging Labor, the Greens and the Shooters and Fishers to allow common sense to prevail and support the Bill," Mr O'Farrell said.

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