

# New laws to target bikies - NSW will imitate Queensland

**BARRY O'Farrell will replicate Queensland anti-bikie laws in a move he said would "protect the public".**

Last week, an outlaw motorcycle gang lost its appeal to the High Court, claiming Queensland's anti-bikie laws were unconstitutional. Mr O'Farrell said he would introduce similar laws to make bikie gangs illegal.

"We're determined to get these tough new laws in place by Easter," he said. "We did the prudent thing, waited for the High Court ruling on the Queensland laws (and) after careful examination, we've modified our bill.

"The NSW government is determined to have outlaw motorcycle gangs declared criminal organisations. These laws will give police the power to protect the public from criminal gangs."

Mr O'Farrell has been goaded by the Labor opposition over his failure to declare bikie gangs illegal.

Attorney-General Greg Smith said the proposed laws would give the Supreme Court the power to declare a bikie gang a criminal organisation and decide what was criminal intelligence. A criminal intelligence monitor would be appointed to test applications to declare bikie gangs illegal.

"The amendments should also give the community extra confidence that due process is being followed in these applications," Mr Smith said. "Police are already getting results in cracking down on outlaw motorcycle gangs."

This will be the third set of anti-bikie laws to be introduced in NSW.

NSW's original anti-bikie laws, introduced by the previous Labor government, were knocked back by the High Court in 2011 after an appeal by the Hells Angels. The government was forced to pay full legal costs - about \$300,000 - to Hells Angels member Derek Wainohu.

They gave the Supreme Court the power to outlaw bikie gangs and force members to avoid contact with each other or face up to five years' jail.

In February last year, Mr Smith claimed Labor's legislation was rushed.

The opposition has been cautious about supporting the government's new bill, as it was announced on the day of the leadership spill.

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