

Mark Speakman Attorney General

Troy Grant Minister for Police

**David Elliott** Minister for Corrections

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## TOUGH AND SMART JUSTICE REFORMS DELIVERING SAFER COMMUNITIES

The NSW Government has announced a series of tougher and smarter justice reforms that will deliver justice more quickly to communities and victims, strengthen sentencing options and ensure offenders are rigorously supervised when serving community orders.

More than \$200 million will be spent on additional corrections officers and measures to keep the community safe.

Following these changes offenders in the community will be under active supervision and tougher conditions designed to prevent reoffending.

"These are common sense reforms that will create a tougher, smarter and safer NSW justice system," Attorney General Mark Speakman said. "They will act as a cornerstone to building a safer state which means less crime in your local community."

The reforms are:

- **Tougher**: The State Parole Authority can decide 'no body, no parole', courts will have stronger sentencing options and radicalisation will be considered in parole decisions.
- **Smarter**: Early guilty pleas will help reduce court delays, allow victims to get on with their lives and return police to frontline duties.
- **Safer**: More offenders in the community will be actively supervised, and Community Corrections Officers will have clear authority to impose sanctions in real time.

Minister for Police Troy Grant said, "The Government's tough stance aims to reduce crime, allowing police officers to get on with their job of protecting the community."

Minister for Corrections David Elliott said the parole system is being strengthened requiring courts to consider intelligence on an offender's associations when making a decision on parole.

"The State Parole Authority must now take into account whether an offender sentenced for murder or manslaughter has disclosed the location of the victim's remains, giving offenders an incentive to bring closure to victims' families. An offender's radicalisation would also be considered during parole, even if they are not serving a sentence for terrorism offences," he said.

The legislation, intended to be introduced into Parliament this year, is supported by the NSW Government's \$3.8 billion prison infrastructure plan which is delivering thousands of extra inmate beds across the system.

For more information, please go to: <u>http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/reform</u>

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