



T R E A S U R E R

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW Coalition opposes \$42 billion economic stimulus package

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today condemned Barry O'Farrell's NSW Coalition, which has declared it does not support the \$42 billion economic stimulus package.

"The Rees Government stands ready to deliver our part of the Prime Minister's \$42 billion package – but Barry O'Farrell has now joined Malcolm Turnbull in opposing this much-needed economic relief to the people of NSW," Mr Roozendaal said.

In the NSW Parliament today, Coalition MPs voted against a motion calling for them to declare their support for the stimulus package.

"The Rees Government is 100 per cent committed to delivering the Rudd stimulus package – but Barry O'Farrell just wants to play politics for a cheap headline," Mr Roozendaal said.

"The Premier stated today that we should put politics aside for what's in the best interests of NSW, but Barry O'Farrell just keeps playing cheap political games over a stimulus package that will provide thousands of jobs and secure investment in our state."

Mr Roozendaal said a serious rift had been exposed in the Coalition, with senior MPs publicly contradicting each other over whether to support the stimulus package.

"The treasury spokesman, Mike Baird, backs Malcolm Turnbull but the education spokesman, Adrian Piccoli, backs Kevin Rudd.

"And Barry O'Farrell, like usual, has refused to take any position."

Mike Baird:

My hat is off to Malcolm Turnbull and what he's done.

Malcolm has very clearly taken a principled decision and he believes in this – and so do I.

... Malcolm is right ...

- Mike Baird, ABC702 Drive, February 10, 2009

Adrian Piccoli:

Shadow Minister for Education Adrian Piccoli today welcomed Kevin Rudd's \$14.7 billion investment in school maintenance and minor capital works.

- Media release, Adrian Piccoli, February 3, 2009

Barry O'Farrell:

NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell would not say whether he believes Mr Turnbull is doing the right thing by opposition the package.

- AAP, February 4, 2009

"Barry O'Farrell needs to show leadership on this issue, and tell the people of NSW why he opposes this \$42 billion package," Mr Roozendaal said.

"The Rees Government has given a commitment to the Prime Minister that we will get on with the job of delivering an economic stimulus to NSW.

"It will boost jobs and deliver for local communities with new school halls, libraries, science labs, classrooms, road projects and major public housing projects."