



MEDIA RELEASE | January 20 | 2011

Barry's billion-dollar buy back will destroy frontline services and NSW's financial stability: Roozendaal

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today condemned Barry O'Farrell's plan to "buy back" energy businesses – which would destroy frontline services like police, teachers and nurses as well as the financial stability of NSW.

"Lib pledge to stop sale"

- Daily Telegraph, January 20, 2011, p9

Mr Roozendaal today said: "What frontline services will Barry O'Farrell cut to fund his multi-billion-dollar buy-back promise?"

"How many police, teachers and nurses will he sack?"

"Barry O'Farrell wants to force the people of NSW to pay \$15 billion building new power stations and upgrading energy assets.

"That cost will now be carried by the private sector under the NSW Government's recent energy reforms.

"That's because the NSW Government is freeing up billions of dollars to invest in infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals.

"But Barry O'Farrell wants to spend it on power stations.

"To do that, he has to cut services like police, teachers and nurses."

Under Mr O'Farrell's buy-back plan, NSW would lose its prized AAA credit rating.

"Barry O'Farrell wants the people of NSW to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to banks in extra interest bills, instead of spending it on roads, schools and hospitals," Mr Roozendaal said.

Mr O'Farrell has already outlined plans to cut major health and transport frontline services by axing existing government contracts, including:

- Axing the Commonwealth-State GST agreement, putting more than \$6 billion in hospital funding and 488 hospital beds at risk; and
- Axing \$7 billion in rail infrastructure in western Sydney, including the crucial Western Express and City Relief line and the Parramatta to Epping rail line.