



T R E A S U R E R

STATEMENT

Baird must retract fabricated quote

NSW Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today demanded NSW Coalition treasury spokesman Michael Baird immediately retract a fabricated quote that he attributed to the Treasurer in an opinion piece in today's *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Mr Roozendaal said it was important to set the record straight because international ratings agencies closely examine every statement on the state's finances – whether it comes from the Government or the Opposition.

Mr Roozendaal did not make the comment attributed to him by Mr Baird in direct quotations about the state's AAA credit rating.

"In political debate, it is fair and reasonable to be critical but it is totally unacceptable to make up quotations," Mr Roozendaal said.

"This is not a slip of the tongue; this is a Shadow Treasurer sitting down at the keyboard and publishing untruths.

"Michael Baird is one or two things – sloppy in his research or deliberately trying to mislead both the people of NSW and the international ratings agencies.

"Mr Baird must explain if this was a Google-induced mistake or a deliberate act to fabricate comments and attribute them to me.

"I never made the comment he has attributed to me in his amateur and naïve analysis of how the state's finances work.

"For the record, I have always said the NSW Government will do everything within its power to defend the state's AAA credit rating.

"To state otherwise is simply misleading, a fabrication and talking down NSW," Mr Roozendaal said.

Mr Baird in today's *Herald* (June 9, page 11) wrote:

The Treasurer, Eric Roozendaal, said "it could be sacrificed for job creation and infrastructure spending".

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