



The Hon Greg Pearce MLC

Minister for Finance and Services

Minister for the Illawarra

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW TRIBUNALS TO GO UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce, Attorney General Greg Smith SC, and Minister for Fair Trading Anthony Roberts today said NSW would look at options to reform the number of Tribunals in NSW, including opportunities for consolidation.

Attorney General, Greg Smith SC said the matter had been referred to a Parliamentary Committee who would consider a range of options and report back to Government early in the new year.

“The number of Tribunals in NSW had made dispute resolution in NSW complex for residents and created inefficiency and duplication across Government,” Mr Smith said.

“In 2002, the Ombudsman and Police Integrity Commission recommended that Tribunals in NSW be consolidated, but since this time only minor changes have occurred,” he said.

“The NSW Government is committed to quicker, cheaper and more effective Tribunals and today’s announcement is the next step in making that happen.

The Law and Justice Committee has been tasked with:

- Considering opportunities to consolidate Tribunals;
- Reviewing current Tribunal workloads including the Industrial Relations Commission, Administrative Decisions Tribunal and health disciplinary Tribunals;
- Reviewing the operation of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal; and
- Considering any consequential changes that may arise.

Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce said the inquiry would look at whether a single point of contact for all Tribunal related dispute resolution functions could be of benefit, especially for NSW regional residents.

“We are determined to make any dealings with the NSW Government easier and seamless, including in matters of dispute resolution,” Mr Pearce said.

“Options for a more consolidated approach has the potential to increase decision-making quality and achieve efficiencies across Government,” he said.

“With significant changes in the jurisdiction of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission, including the introduction of the Fair Work Act and the National Occupational Health and Safety system, opportunities already exist to allow the IRC to hear other matters.

“It makes sense that we use the resources we have more effectively and create simpler services for NSW residents to use.

“This approach is tried and tested and has been operating in Victoria for some years,” Mr Pearce said.

Minister for Fair Trading, Anthony Roberts said a number of opportunities existed to improve Fair Trading’s framework for resolving disputes between tenants, landlords, traders and consumers.

“The Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal is used by tens of thousands of NSW residents every year.

“This inquiry provides an opportunity to determine if or whether we can make any improvements,” Mr Roberts said.