



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

21 August 2012

TOUGH NEW GRAFFITI LAWS TO COME INTO FORCE

The NSW Government will deliver on its promise to implement tough new laws targeting graffiti, with legislation set to pass Parliament.

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, said the new laws will:

- Require juvenile graffiti vandals to appear before the court for a graffiti offence;
- Give courts the power to:
 - extend the time graffiti offenders spend on learner or provisional licences
 - limit the number of demerit points they are able to accrue over a specific period;
- Require the cleaning up of graffiti be a condition of any court imposed Community Service Order on graffiti offenders.

“These are tough reforms by any measure,” Mr Smith said.

“The new laws are significantly stronger than anything Labor introduced over 16 years and would have been even stronger had Labor supported the original Bill.

“With the passing of these laws, magistrates will be empowered to put offenders on licence restrictions and reduce the offender’s number of demerit points.

“It sends young offenders a very clear message – if you go out to vandalise public or private property you will face the consequences and that can now include the time you spend on a learner or provisional driver’s licence.

“The NSW Government is determined to eliminate the scourge of graffiti.

“If the community is concerned about why our original bill is not being delivered in full, they should ask their local Labor MP why they failed to support this legislation when it was presented the first time around.”