



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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BANNING ORDER LEGISLATION UNUSED

The decision to repeal the *Sporting Venues (Offender Banning Orders) Act 2005* was made after a review confirmed no banning orders had been made under the Act since it commenced, the NSW Attorney General Greg Smith SC said today.

“A review of the Act, which considered submissions from legal stakeholders and sporting bodies, found that no banning orders had been made and that the Act was doing nothing to prevent violence and disorder at sporting events,” Mr Smith said.

“A sporting body can issue their own ban immediately following unacceptable behaviour, which is more effective than going through a time consuming court process.

“The banning systems administered by sporting bodies are far more flexible and can be applied with national or even international consistency.”

The NSW Minister for Sport and Recreation, Graham Annesley, said the current protocols being administered by major sporting codes against unruly conduct at sporting events had proven to be successful.

“The Football Federation of Australia has been vigilant having banned 16 people since 2009, and they have already banned individuals involved in recent incidents at Campbelltown Stadium and Edensor Park.

“The NRL currently has a memorandum of understanding with the NSW Police enforcing bans which has seen over 30 people banned,” Mr Annesley said.

“In addition to being banned from venues, violent spectators may expose themselves to prosecution under the Crimes Act,” Mr Smith said.