



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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BAIL REPORT TABLED

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today tabled the NSW Law Reform Commission's report on the Bail Act.

Mr Smith said the Government would now examine the 363-page report and respond to the recommendations by the end of the year.

He said the current Bail Act was confusing and inconsistent after 19 significant changes since its introduction in 1978.

"The Government went to the election with a commitment to review the Bail Act and that is what we are doing," Mr Smith said.

The report describes the NSW laws as "voluminous, unwieldy, hugely complex" and says "the results are frequently anomalous and unjust".

Mr Smith said the Government is committed to a Bail Act which is simple, consistent and protects the community.

He said the Government favoured a "risk management" approach for bail determinations. Such an approach takes into account risk factors such as a person committing another offence, endangering the public or interfering with witnesses.

The Attorney General thanked the Law Reform Commission for its report, which was led by retired judges Hal Sperling and James Wood.

"The Bail Act is so complex it is little wonder we regularly get decisions that are inconsistent and confuse the public," Mr Smith said.

"Most people have, at times, been left perplexed or even angry at bail decisions which have seemed inconsistent.

"What we need is clarity in our bail laws to deliver the consistency the community demands and provides protection to the public from violent crime."

For the report go to www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc