



## **NEXT ROUND OF BIKIE LAWS TARGET GANG RECRUITMENT**

5 May 2009

The NSW Government will introduce the next round of legislation to combat outlaw motorcycle gangs in to Parliament today.

Premier Nathan Rees said the new laws create a new offence of recruiting a person to be a member of a declared organisation, carrying a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

“Police tell us that criminal gangs use ‘feeder groups,’ which are lower profile organisations, generally with a younger membership base, to recruit new members,” Mr Rees said.

“This new offence will choke off membership for declared gangs and will apply to gang members who were already the subject of control orders.

“This is about hitting these gangs where it hurts - we are giving Police the powers they need to put a stop to bikie gangs making money and recruiting new members.”

Mr Rees said the new legislation will also include a “substitute service” scheme to allow police to make a public notice when placing a control order on an individual, after other means of serving the order have been unsuccessful.

“We know that gang members will do whatever it takes to stay one step ahead of the law,” Mr Rees said.

“This legislation will make it very difficult for them to run and hide.”

The scheme would extend the 28-service period and is aimed at preventing criminals from going underground to avoid being served.

Mr Rees said that outlaws gang members will no longer be able to act with impunity in this State.

“Their days of drug running, bashings and intimidation are numbered.”

The next round of legislation will also include:

- Giving power to the police to share confidential criminal intelligence concerning associates of declared motorcycle gang members with high risk industry regulators. Industry licences to associates, who act as “front people,” will be refused or cancelled if the regulator believes improper conduct to further criminal activity is likely to occur.

- Amend the Surveillance Devices Act 2007 to authorise the use of intelligence obtained through a surveillance warrant to be used in proceedings to declare a gang or place a control order on a gang member.

Mr Rees said the new laws will amend the Criminal Organisations Legislation Amendment Bill 2009 and other laws to give police additional tools they need to smash criminal gangs.

“This legislation will build on our new organised crime laws and goes further toward our goal of dismantling outlaw motorcycle gangs,” Mr Rees said.

Last month the NSW Government passed laws to declare bikie gangs as illegal and make it an offence for its members to associate together.

Under the legislation, declared gang members who continue to associate together will face jail for up to two years for the first offence and five years for every offence after that.

The second round of laws also includes a new type of search warrant to make it easier for police to seize items connected to organised crime gangs.