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NSWCCL MEDIA STATEMENT

LABOR TAKES DISAPPOINTING WEAK POSITION ON BAIL BILL

The NSW Government's much criticized Bail Amendment Bill is expected to be considered by the Legislative Council this week.

Given the Shadow Attorney-General Paul Lynch's robust, detailed demolition of the ill-conceived review of the new Bail Act and the main proposals in the Bill¹, Labor should support a vote to block the Bill in the upper house.

It would be an extraordinary manifestation of hypocrisy for Labor to 'not oppose' the legislation, as it has suggested it will do.

The NSW community is in search of good government.

Labor will only be able to position itself as an electable party if it demonstrates it is capable of acting on principle and sound policy analysis.

Labor knows there was no sound reason for the review. Labor knows that the Bill is not good law. Labor knows the changes will lead to unjust outcomes for individuals. Labor knows that the increased gaol population will be an unnecessary cost to Government.

Labor knows that this whole knee-jerk process to review and amend a new law after 3 weeks is a travesty and a depressing return to the appalling process that generated the 85 amendments that made the old Act unworkable.

The Government should not have introduced this Bill. Attorney General Brad Hazzard was correct in saying a review was not warranted (Daily Telegraph 19/6/14). The law and order auction fuelled by shock-jocks is not in the public interest.

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¹ Proof Hansard Bail Amendment Bill Second Reading LA 10/9/14
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/parliament/hansart.nsf/V3Key/LA20140910005?open&refNavID=>