



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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## PLAGIARISM PASSES FOR OPPOSITION POLICY

The Opposition has today revived a policy which it famously plagiarised from a Melbourne law journal last year, said Attorney General John Hatzistergos.

Barry O'Farrell has told the *Daily Telegraph* he would introduce the policy, on the appointment of judges and magistrates, if he was elected Premier.

"The public deserves original ideas from the Leader of the Opposition, not reheated rubbish," said Mr Hatzistergos.

The policy, released by the Member for Epping, Greg Smith, last year, said:

*While there is as yet no definitive empirical evidence on whether such commissions have increased the quality of judicial appointments, it is significant that they have been perceived as having had this effect.*

In 2003, the *Melbourne University Law Review* said:

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The policy also lifted from a book called *The New Judiciary*.

Mr Hatzistergos said the NSW Government was proud of its judicial appointments policy, which included use of an independent panel to review potential appointees and consultation with stakeholders.

"I challenge Mr O'Farrell to identify a single magistrate or judge who he claims is a crony."

Mr Hatzistergos said Mr O'Farrell also told the *Telegraph* today that he would review sentencing laws but didn't say in what way.

"Greg Smith told the *Sydney Morning Herald* in January he'd go soft on crime if elected, so we can only assume that Mr O'Farrell wants to shorten sentences."