



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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## NSW TO ASK FEDS TO GO AFTER BIKIE COMPANIES

The Rees Government will this week ask the Commonwealth to consider amending its laws to disqualify bikies from being directors of companies, said Attorney General John Hatzistergos.

At a meeting of Attorneys General in Canberra on Thursday and Friday, NSW will ask the Federal Government to consider amending the *Corporations Act 2001* to automatically disqualify bikies who have committed criminal association and gang participation offences.

Mr Hatzistergos said it was important to inhibit the ability of outlaw motorcycle gangs to form companies and function as legitimate businesses.

Specifically, NSW will ask the Commonwealth to extend the categories of offences that result in automatic disqualification to include:

- The participation offence described in Section 93T of the *NSW Crimes Act 1900*.
- The association offence described in Section 26 of the *NSW Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2009*.

Mr Hatzistergos said he will also ask the Commonwealth to consider amending telecommunication interception laws to make them compatible with NSW organised crime legislation.

Under federal *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979*, interception warrants can be granted in connection with offences which carry a maximum sentence of seven years or more, as well as for a list of other specific offences.

Mr Hatzistergos said he will ask the Commonwealth to include Section 93T of the *Crimes (Criminal Organisations Control) Act 2009*, which carries a maximum penalty of five years, on the list.

“Amending Federal law, would allow police to use evidence gathered on telephone intercepts to charge gang members with participation offences.”

Furthermore, Mr Hatzistergos said he will ask other states and territories at the meeting to consider putting reciprocal recognition arrangements in place for dealing with gangs.

“In order to prevent the re-location of proscribed groups across borders, we need to look at pursuing reforms to ensure the mutual recognition of declarations of organisations and members.”