



# Barry O'Farrell MP

## NSW Opposition Leader

### Shadow Minister for Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **CONSTRUCTION KICK START PROGRAM: NSW LIBERALS & NATIONALS PLAN TO GET HOUSING MOVING AGAIN**

A NSW Liberals and Nationals Government will deliver a Construction Kick Start Program to get the state property and construction sector moving again, after abolishing Labor's \$429 million homebuyers tax, NSW Opposition Leader Barry O'Farrell said today.

Labor's homebuyers tax has hit 35,000 homebuyers by an average of \$1,000 each, earning the Keneally Labor Government more than \$32 million in its first eight months of operation. Labor's tax is forecast to gouge \$429 million over four years.

"Home ownership is becoming a fading dream for young families because of Labor's unnecessary taxes," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Not only has Labor's homebuyers tax hurt families, it has hurt businesses associated with construction like brick makers," he said.

"Under Labor, the local construction industry will suffer a double whammy of greater property taxes and higher costs under Labor's carbon tax on electricity and other business items.

"We have to take action to get the housing construction sector moving again.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals will provide incentives to those people to buy homes, and make housing more affordable for young families.

The NSW Liberals & Nationals Construction Kick Start Program will:

- Repeal Labor's \$429 million homebuyers tax on property purchases;
- Provide a Regional Relocation Grant of \$7000 to encourage housing construction in rural areas;
- Target the release of 10,000 new blocks of land through Landcom over the next four years;
- Extend stamp duty concessions to "empty nesters" over the age of 55 who choose to move from a house to a smaller dwelling;
- Create 100,000 new jobs through payroll tax rebates under the Jobs Action Plan;
- Ensure local communities are more involved in housing planning in their areas; and,
- Oppose Labor's Carbon Tax

"We want home ownership to be more than a dream," Mr O'Farrell said.

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"The Construction Kick Start Program will make it easier for families to get into the housing market and reduce the pressure on household budgets from mortgage costs.

"This will only happen if we kick start the property construction industry so there are more homes on the market and housing becomes more affordable.

"Sydney has earned the unwanted reputation as Australia's least affordable city.

"Sadly 13,000 fewer new homes were built in NSW than Victoria in 2009 – even though NSW's population is 30 per cent higher.

"It's time for a real change.

"For the first time in 16 years, there will be a State Government offering incentives to get people into the housing market rather than driving them out.

"Labor sent the worst possible signal to young homebuyers last year when it imposed the unfair Homebuyers Tax.

"That tax not only slugs homebuyers but it sends the worst possible signal to residents that the Labor Government does not want people to buy homes for their families.

"We will repeal that tax and send a message that we want to encourage property construction and home ownership in this State," Mr O'Farrell said.

### **Residential Property Sales Paying Labor's Homebuyers Tax**

| <b>Region</b>  | <b>Properties Taxed Since July 1</b> | <b>Tax Paid Since July 1.</b> |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Western Sydney | 12,032                               | \$7,075,888                   |
| Rest of NSW    | 22,700                               | \$25,517,372                  |
| Total          | 34,732                               | \$32,593,261                  |

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