

**My Five Top Priorities for Putting People First**  
By Barry O'Farrell, Leader of the Opposition  
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The people of New South Wales know that Labor has failed them. They also know it's time to put Labor's failures behind us.

Through to the March 2011 state election, my Liberal / Nationals team and I will outline our positive, practical plans to put NSW back on track.

We start from a simple principle: for NSW families to have access to quality services and enjoy the best quality of life, our state government must do what it's elected for - serve the people.

NSW needs a government that puts people first again.

We need a government focused on the public interest – the wellbeing of families, businesses and communities - in every decision it makes about every taxpayer dollar it spends.

We need a government determined to make NSW a place where people can strive and thrive – a place of opportunity again.

Our team – including former teachers, police, nurses, accountants, small business operators, lawyers and farmers - has five key priorities for putting people first.

First, to rebuild a strong NSW economy.

A strong NSW economy is critical for everything people rely on government to provide.

Our economic rebuilding program is two-fold: lower taxes and support growth.

This includes: a 15% payroll tax cut that supports the jobs of two-thirds of all workers in NSW; a goal of halving the times to deliver major building projects, and; Industry Action Plans to promote tomorrow's jobs, in areas such as environmental management and the creative industries.

Second, the Liberal / Nationals will return quality services people can rely on - such as our bus and train system, our hospitals, and our kids' education.

The key is to restore “customer service” and again focus on the families using these services.

In transport, to provide a safe, clean and reliable service, we will create a single integrated transport agency. Overseen by an independent board, it will guarantee passengers a full-time focus from government on quality public transport services.

In health, to guarantee patient care is always the top priority, we will establish health districts and appoint boards to ensure those working in our hospitals and the local communities they serve – and not remote head offices – have the final say on how local services are best delivered.

In education, to better equip our children for the future, we are committed to lifting the number of children attending pre-schools and ending the shame of NSW having the worst participation rate in the nation.

Our third priority is to renovate the infrastructure that makes a difference not only to the state's economic outlook, but for people's lives and their families' futures.

Our plans include building rail lines to Sydney's south-west and north-west so people can get to jobs and schools from our fastest growing suburbs. Improving existing train services will be our priority, not Labor's \$5.3 billion Rozelle Metro.

We will fill gaps in our infrastructure that cost NSW jobs through missed opportunities. A government committed to growth wouldn't ignore the need for better convention, exhibition and cruise passenger facilities to build on Sydney's natural advantages in these areas.

Fourth, the Liberal / Nationals are determined to restore honesty to government. Our initiatives will include:

- cleaning up politics by ending taxpayer-funded political advertising and imposing caps on both how much money can be spent by, and donated to political parties, and;
- strengthening ICAC and protecting courageous citizens who blow the whistle on corruption and mismanagement.

Through the establishment of a public service commission, we will end Labor's politicisation and restore integrity, independence and professionalism to the public service.

Finally, the NSW Liberal / Nationals will re-empower local communities, giving people a real say in the decisions that affect their lives.

To borrow a phrase, it's time for all of us to say "yes we can" to a better NSW and a better future.