“I’m happy to resign if I don’t deliver on these promises.”

Barry O’Farrell, 16 March, 2011
In the six months since Barry O’Farrell was elected Premier, his Government has broken 100 election promises. Barry O’Farrell signed a contract with the people of NSW promising to deliver on his election commitments, but this doesn’t appear to count for much.

On average, the O’Farrell Government breaks an election promise every second day.

These broken promises extend across Government, from trashing environmental protections to sacking 5,000 workers and sending the Budget into deficit. Seventeen of the Government’s 22 Ministers have broken an election promise.

O’Farrell Ministers breakdown of broken promises:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINISTER</th>
<th>BROKEN PROMISES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BARRY O’FARRELL: Premier, Minister for Western Sydney</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN: Minister for Transport</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNCAN GAY: Minister for Roads and Ports</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JILLIAN SKINNER: Minister for Health and Medical Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREG PEARCE: Minister for Finance and Services, Minister for the Illawarra</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KATRINA HODGKINSON: Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Small Business</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRIS HARTCHER: Minister for Resources and Energy, Special Minister of State, Minister for the Central Coast</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANDREW STONER: Deputy Premier, Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIKE BAIRD: Treasurer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRU GOWARD: Minister for Family and Community Services, Minister for Women</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBYN PARKER: Minister for the Environment and Heritage</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADRIAN PICCOLI: Minister for Education and Training</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICHAEL GALLACHER: Minister for Police, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for the Hunter</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAD HAZZARD: Minister for Planning and Infrastructure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREG SMITH: Attorney General, Minister for Justice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGE SOURIS: Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, Minister for the Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEVIN HUMPHRIES: Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Healthy Lifestyles, Minister for Western NSW</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BROKEN PROMISES

1. “We won’t let home ownership become a distant dream for young people across this State.” Liberal Party campaign speech, 2011.

Dumped stamp duty concessions for first home buyers, forcing up to 95,000 first home buyers to pay an extra $10,000 to $20,000 in tax on their first property purchase.


No funding set aside for Resources for the Regions package over Budget forward estimates.


Passed on an 18 per cent increase to electricity bills after only four months in office.


Introduced legislation to strip the Industrial Relations Commission’s ability to preside over OH&S matters.

5. “The NSW Liberals and Nationals can deliver on our commitments, protect future Budget surpluses and maintain the AAA credit rating.” Liberal and National policy document.

Budget has gone from a $1.3 billion surplus to a $718 million deficit in just six months.

6. “In our first 100 days, we will commence negotiations on the M5 widening to reduce congestion with a view to completing them by the end of July.” 100 Day Plan.

After 184 days, still no announcement on the progress of the M5 widening negotiations.


Announced the solar tariff would be cut from 60 cents to 40 cents for people already in the scheme before backflipping after public outrage.

8. “We will need more public servants, not less.” Fate of our State debate, 2011.

At least 5,000 public sector jobs cut in the 2011/12 Budget.
“Public servants will be no worse off under this [industrial relations amendment] policy than they were under Labor’s policy.”
Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

University of Sydney’s Workplace Research Centre found a nurse would be $12,232 worse off and a teacher $14,580 worse off each year had the O’Farrell policy been applied over the past decade.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals have no plans to change mining royalties.”
Mike Baird, 2011.

Barry O’Farrell confirmed he will increase mining royalties in 2011/12 Budget.

“We will retain the same cabinet as shadow cabinet, in terms of portfolios and people.” Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

Shadow Ministers Catherine Cusack, Greg Aplin and Melinda Pavey all dumped from the Government frontbench.

“We will appoint an additional 900 new literacy and numeracy teachers.”
Liberal and National policy document.

$97 million funding for the final round of teachers will not be provided until after the 2015 election.

“Every employee who is skilled and works hard will have a job running Sydney Ferries.”
Gladys Berejiklian, 2011.

One in six staff working for Sydney Ferries will be sacked by the O’Farrell Government.

“We will trial 50 new Student Support Officers at a cost of $13 million over four years.”
Education policy document.

Budget papers only allocate $11 million over four years and fails to mention how many Student Support Officers will be cut.

“I’m not going to sell out our mandate, sell out those people who have supported us, simply to trade votes with minority interests in the State’s Upper House.”
Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

Premier took Reverend Nile’s Bill to repeal ethics classes to Cabinet and allowed him to bring on debate to repeal the classes at the expense of Government business – in exchange for passing his industrial relations legislation.

“A Liberal Government would commit to supporting the outcomes of the [ASU] case. Ms Goward has been a long term and vocal supporter of equal pay.”
Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

The O’Farrell Government has refused to fund the equal pay case to appropriately remunerate underpaid and predominantly female community and disability service workers.

“Installation of lifts at Pendle Hill Train Station.” Liberal Party election leaflet.

No funding allocated over forward estimates in Budget.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals are committed to conserving NSW’s unique national parks and wildlife.”
Environment policy document.

Abolished the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water in its first week of Government.

“We will provide $10 million to pilot community and workplace health checks for the early identification of persons with a chronic disease at risk of hospitalisation.”
Community Pharmacies policy document.

Only $2 million set aside over four years for community health checks.
“We will end the scandals.”  
*Barry O’Farrell, 2011.*

- By-election called for seat of Clarence after Nationals MP and Parliamentary Secretary for Police, Steve Cansdell forced to resign after falsely signing a statutory declaration to avoid a speeding fine;
- Aboriginal Affairs Minister Victor Dominello caught speeding;
- Tamworth MP, Kevin Anderson caught running his government relations company after he was elected; and
- Tweed MP, Geoff Provest caught pushing the purchase of former National MP’s land for a police station.

“What I can commit to is doing everything possible to keep future increases in power and water as low as possible.”  
*Barry O’Farrell, 2011.*

Premier personally signed off on a contract to increase Sydney Water profits by 78 per cent next year – forcing water bills up by at least $861 over four years.

Duncan Gay promises a standalone Parliamentary Secretary for Recreational Fishing. 2011.

No standalone Parliamentary Secretary for Recreational Fishing in the O’Farrell Government.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals will ensure the conservation needs of the grey nurse shark are met well into the future.”  
*Recreational fishing policy document.*

Lifted bans on high risk fishing methods designed to protect the critically endangered grey nurse shark at Fish Rock and Green Island.

Premier promises to freeze dividends paid by power and water companies because of the pressure it places on prices. 19 April, 2011.

Increased the dividend Hunter Water pays the NSW Government by a whopping 23 per cent. This will come into effect from 1 July, 2012.

“We will immediately commission a scientific audit of the effectiveness of existing marine park zoning arrangements.”  
*Recreational fishing policy document.*

Government overturns zoning plans for the Solitary Islands and Jervis Bay marine parks before the results of any audit are released.

“I want to be seen as the infrastructure Premier.”  
*Barry O’Farrell, 2010.*

The O’Farrell Government will spend $400 million less on infrastructure in the 2011/12 Budget than the former Government had budgeted for.

“The Liberals and Nationals will fast track the delivery of sewerage to Yanderra households for a new delivery year of 2014/15,”  
*Housing policy document.*

Amendment to the Sydney Water operating license reveals planning will not commence for a sewerage connection in Yanderra until 2015. No date given for completion.

“The Liberals and Nationals will fast track the delivery of sewerage to Douglas Park households for a new delivery year of 2012/13.”  
*Housing policy document.*

Amendment to the Sydney Water operating license reveals delivery of Douglas Park sewerage connections will not take place until 30 June, 2014.

“The Liberals and Nationals will fast track the delivery of sewerage to Wilton households for a new delivery year of 2012/13.”  
*Housing policy document.*

Amendment to the Sydney Water operating license reveals delivery of Wilton sewerage connections will not take place until 30 June, 2014.
“I am delighted to commit an O’Farrell Government to delivering $3 million towards the [Polding Street and Cumberland Highway] intersection upgrade.”
Andrew Stoner, March 2011.

No funding set aside for Polding Street and Cumberland Highway intersection at Fairfield in Budget forward estimates.

“Our plan includes boosting construction activity across the State, we’ll build not just promise the infrastructure that makes a difference to people’s lives.”
Liberal Party campaign speech.

Non dwelling construction fell by 19.5 per cent in the June quarter, with major projects in limbo because key elements of the planning system have been removed with no replacement.

“No funding set aside for polding street and Cumberland Highway intersection at Fairfield in Budget forward estimates.

“No funding set aside in Budget forward estimates for Oatley Station.

“No funding set aside in Budget forward estimates for Narwee Station.

“No funding set aside for an easy access upgrade at Panania Station in forward estimates.

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“My team’s the busiest.”

In the first seven weeks of Parliament, Barry O’Farrell passed only 27 Bills compared to Morris Iemma’s 53. The Upper House was also shut down because there was no legislation to review.
“We will strengthen FOI laws.”

Imposed a blanket ban on the release of all public service briefs prepared for the Government, declaring them exempt from the Government Information Public Access (GIPA) Act.

“If there are misdemeanours there will be consequences.”

No action taken against Member for Londonderry, Bart Bassett when he was caught drink driving on his way home from Parliament.

“We believe that openness and transparency are the best ways to deliver better services and results for the community.”
Start the Change document.

Shut down the Parliamentary Budget Office to avoid scrutiny.

Premier said appointing too many MPs to special positions was political parties “looking after themselves first and the community last.”

Sixty four of 88 Liberal and National MPs rewarded with new titles and pay rises.

“I have no plans to privatise NSW ports.”
Ports Minister Duncan Gay, August 2011.

Port Botany will be privatised under the O’Farrell Government.

“Regional Relocation Grants will apply to the purchase of a home between 1 July 2011 and 30 June 2015 and a maximum of 40,000 grants will be payable.”
Mike Baird, 2011.

$100 million cut to the Regional Relocation Grant program will see 13,000 fewer grants provided to families relocating to regional council areas over four years.

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“A Solar Summit will ensure the further development of solar energy in NSW.”
Liberal and National policy document.

Solar in NSW has stopped dead in its tracks since the Solar Summit. A solar company in western Sydney cut 30 jobs and the largest provider of solar panels in Australia has gone into receivership.

“In the first 100 days we will enact campaign finance legislation that includes restricting political donations to individuals.”
100 Day Plan.

Campaign finance legislation not introduced until 12 September and is yet to be debated.

“Installation of lifts at Toongabbie Station.”
Liberal Party election leaflet.

No funding allocated over forward estimates in Budget.

“Infrastructure NSW will comprise an independent Chair.”

Former Liberal Premier and key Liberal fundraiser Nick Greiner appointed Chair of Infrastructure NSW.

No funding allocated for a Tweed homeless shelter by the O’Farrell Government.

“Initiatives since being elected include an accommodation support facility for the Tweed’s growing number of young homeless people.”
Geoff Provest, National Party website.

No funding allocated for a Tweed homeless shelter by the O’Farrell Government.

“This new [Three Strikes] tough measure will apply to all licensed venues whether pubs, clubs, nightclubs, bottle-shops or restaurants.”
George Souris, 2010.

Clubs will be exempt from losing their liquor licenses under the Government’s legislation.

Barry O’Farrell promised $350 million for a Hunter Infrastructure Fund on top of the Hunter’s 2011/12 existing Budget of $1.7 billion under the former Government.
Newcastle Herald, March 2011.

Only $1.2 billion delivered for the Hunter – almost $1 billion less than what was promised.
Premier met with and appointed Australian Hotels Association lobbyist Brian Ross to the Casino, Liquor and Gaming Control Authority board in clear breach of the Lobbyist Code of Conduct.

Desalination Plant declared a ‘monopoly supplier’ which will inevitably increase water prices.

2011/12 Budget delivers $195 million cut to western Sydney roads funding.

Department of Primary Industries falls under Department of Trade and Investment super-agency.

No funding allocated in Government’s first term for Wentworth Falls Station easy access upgrade.

No funding allocated in Budget 2011/12.

Cut funding and wound back Regional Illegal Dumping Squad work by 14 per cent in the 2011/12 Budget.

Emergency Department performance data was omitted from the September 2011 Health Bureau Quarterly report.

Vanessa’s Law promise dumped.

Minister replaced the only local doctor from the Tweed area on the Northern NSW Local Health District Board with two prominent National Party members.

“Only a NSW Liberal and National Government will help restore the status of agriculture in NSW by creating a standalone Department of Primary Industries.” Duncan Gay, 2011.

“Wentworth Falls Station a priority.” Roza Sage, 2011.

$2 million for upgrades to the intersection of the Cumberland Highway and Darcy Road, Westmead. “We will have money on the table ready to go in our first year of Government.” Andrew Stoner, March 2011.

When Westmead Hospital ran out of water for four hours, the Minister failed to inform the community and a member of the public raised the alarm.
“The NSW Liberals and Nationals will reopen Gulgong Hospital.”
Jenny Gardiner, 2011.

Health Minister confirmed Gulgong Hospital will not be reopened.

“We’ve got ourselves a very good major event – probably the draw fixture of the current season for the NRL, and the NSW Government... is doing track work just where they shouldn’t be.” George Souris, 2010.

Trackwork will take place on the NRL grand final long weekend again in 2011.

“We want to attract major events to this city and we should be able to do this without causing traffic chaos.” Duncan Gay, 2011.

The M2 will be reduced to just one lane on the NRL grand final weekend, causing traffic chaos across the city.


No funding allocated for project in Budget forward estimates.

Environment package to help regenerate bushland and waterways at Harris Creek in Holsworthy. Melanie Gibbons, March 2011.

Gibbons admits there is no funding and “it wasn’t on the Government’s priority list.”

“As soon as possible after the election, the people of Riverstone will have a plan, completion dates and money to go with it [for the Riverstone rail overpass].” Andrew Stoner, 2010.

No funding set aside for the project in this term of Government.

“$5 million for the construction of a Wollongong Road pedestrian tunnel.” John Flowers, 2011.

No funding provided over Budget forward estimates for a pedestrian tunnel.

“The public service has been racked by nepotism and political appointments in NSW for too long, and today we start the change to end that process.” Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

Greiner advisor and Barry O’Farrell acquaintance Gary Sturgess appointed to a special NSW Premier’s Chair at the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

“The old politics of smear and fear and untruths is the past.” Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

Parliamentary Budget Office, Acting NSW Treasury head Michael Lambert and Standard & Poor’s confirm the Premier lied about the existence of his fictional ‘budget black hole.’

“A drive to increase the number of foster carers across the State will not work unless the NSW Government increases the support offered to foster carers.” Thomas George, National Party website.

Foster carers will have their allowances cut by more than $212 a fortnight when their child turns 16.

“One Minister will have responsibility for both the Education and Training and Juvenile Justice portfolios.” Barry O’Farrell, NCOSS 2010 conference.

Adrian Piccoli is Minister for Education. Greg Smith has responsibility for Juvenile Justice.

Hazzard vows to remove the former Government’s “rotten planning policies” Brad Hazzard, 2011.

Minister uses the same powers he called ‘rotten’ to intervene in a development application for a police station in Leichhardt that looked set to be rejected by planners.

“Coalition promise of $8 million to purchase land for the Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospital expansion.” Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

$7 million funding shortfall that will prevent the purchase of land for the hospital expansion.
“Brendan O’Reilly will conduct an independent inquiry into the Newcastle chemical leak.” Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

Environment Minister Robyn Parker’s office drafted the terms of reference for the ‘independent’ inquiry, which does not specifically look at the Minister’s delay in passing on advice.

“The NSW Coalition has promised there will be no more cuts to agriculture jobs in the public service if it wins Government on March 26.” Duncan Gay, 2011.

11 scientists sacked from the Forest Science Centre in West Pennant Hills, with more job cuts flagged.


Passed legislation to give rail freight priority over passenger trains, which will see commuters face longer and more frequent delays across the CityRail network.

“Any shredding or destroying of documents is totally unacceptable.” Barry O’Farrell, March 2011.

There have been no changes to shredding policies by the new Government since it took office on 26 March.

“Police would keep their rights to collective bargaining, awards and an independent umpire.” Mike Gallacher, 2011.

NSW Industrial Relations Commission stripped of its independence and police wages will be capped at 2.5 per cent after the next award expires.

“In the 2011/2012 Budget, the O’Farrell Stoner Government has delivered the largest increase in funding for mental health in the State’s history.” Kevin Humphries, 2011.

There has been a $69.6 million cut in real funding for mental health services in the 2011/12 Budget.

“We will raise standards of Ministerial behaviour.” Contract with NSW.

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner referred to ICAC after it was revealed he had been receiving the highest Solar Bonus Scheme feed in tariff, despite failing to pay his deposit before the deadline.

“A NSW Liberal and National Government will introduce mandatory life sentences for those convicted of the murder of police.” Mike Gallacher, 2011.

Legislation introduces mandatory life sentences only for those who knew or ought to have known that the person killed was a police officer.

“The Liberals and Nationals presently have no plans to privatise any further prisons.” Mark Neeham, February 2011.

Government confirms it is considering the privatisation of prisons in 2011/12 Budget.

“The NSW Government is determined to stand with the people of the Illawarra.” Barry O’Farrell after 800 BlueScope job losses announced, August 2011.

Axes Illawarra Advantage Fund which has created and retained more than 3,000 jobs in the Illawarra.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals understand that communities need assistance during natural disasters like the recent floods, and in Government we will ensure that NSW gets its fair share.” Andrew Stoner, January 2011.

Stoner failed to apply for flood relief grants for Mid North Coast primary producers in June 2011 for six weeks – delaying payments of up to $15,000 from the Commonwealth.
“No family member would expect their loved one to be treated in a room where medical supplies and other equipment is stored.”

Minister fails to take action when Royal North Shore Hospital patient is kept in a storage room and given a cowbell to attract nurses’ attention. “I’m sorry that he isn’t in a room with chandeliers and glorious views.”

“We will offset the cost of the solar bonus scheme against uncommitted funds in the Climate Change Fund to ensure that prices do not have to rise.” Liberal Party policy document, 2011.

$12 Climate Change Fund levy will be added to household electricity bills each year.

“For $9 million we could have this [Gipp Street recreational] centre up and running.”
Tanya Davies, 2011.

MP concedes there is no funding allocated for the Gipp Street recreational facility in Mulgoa.

The Liberals and Nationals will develop a process for “establishing renewable energy facilities such as commercial scale solar farms and wind farms.” Liberals and Nationals policy document.

“We haven’t approved any [wind farm] applications - and if I had my way, we wouldn’t.” Barry O’Farrell, August 2011.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals are offering to return the Hunter region to honest, stable and competent Government.”

Minister for the Environment, Robyn Parker fails to warn Stockton families for 54 hours that their children were potentially exposed to toxic chemicals after a leak from the Orica plant.

“Not a single dollar is going to be taken off the Budget bottom line, not an additional dollar of debt will be added.”
Mike Baird, March 2011.

Net debt in the general Government sector will increase by 40 per cent or $3.185 billion in 2011/12 alone.

“Install a lift at Waratah Train Station.”

No funding allocated for Waratah Train Station.

“In Government, the NSW Liberals and Nationals will bring back the offence of drunk and disorderly.” Liberal and National policy document.

The Intoxicated and Disorderly Conduct Bill does not bring back the offence and merely allows police to fine people who don't obey a ‘move on’ direction after six hours.

“We are determined to end that culture of promises and non-delivery.”
Barry O’Farrell, 2011.

100 broken promises in the first six months of Government.

BROKEN PROMISE 101?

“We have absolutely no plans to privatise either the generators or the poles and wires.”
Barry O’Farrell, January 2011.

“We have ruled out the sale of poles and wires because that is where the jobs are and we are determined to protect jobs.”
Barry O’Farrell, February 2011.

Barry O’Farrell is now refusing to rule out electricity privatisation.