



The Hon Graham Annesley MP

Minister for Sport and Recreation

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 10 June 2011

NSW BACKS NATIONAL POLICY ON MATCH-FIXING

Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Graham Annesley MP, on behalf of the NSW Government today signed the National Policy on Match-Fixing to pursue consistent legislation with the intention of meeting head-on the potential threat to sport posed by corrupt conduct and organised crime.

Mr Annesley welcomed today's agreement as an important first step in the process.

“The NSW Liberals and Nationals Government is very supportive of a national approach to addressing the issue of inappropriate and fraudulent sports betting involving any attempted match-fixing,” Mr Annesley said.

“Following today's announcement I will work closely with Commonwealth Government authorities and my colleagues in NSW, particularly the Attorney General and the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing – to ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to meet the challenges ahead,” Mr Annesley said.

“As I stated in my inaugural speech to the NSW Parliament this is an aspect of sport that seriously concerns me, particularly as it relates to major professional sports.

“The enormous growth of gambling on sporting events, specifically the relatively recent increase in more exotic bet types, I believe is potentially the most significant threat to the integrity of sport confronting us.

“Australians expect the sport they watch or participate in to be played honestly and to the ideals of fair play and good sportsmanship.

“Having worked in professional sport as an administrator for many years, I recognise the significant contribution of sport to our society and the good it can do for communities.

“Any sport with a question mark over its integrity will not enjoy public confidence and will over time become nothing more than a sideshow lacking credibility.

The NSW Government will pursue close consultation with national and state sporting bodies in implementing this policy, and is committed to doing everything possible to see sport free of the threat of match-fixing and corruption.