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O'Farrell to retire from politics



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Former NSW Premier
Barry O'Farrell. Photo:
Daniel Munoz

FORMER NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell will not contest next year's State election.

Mr O'Farrell advised the government he was retiring from politics, after leading the Coalition to victory in the 2011 election before standing down from the position of Premier earlier this year due to an investigation by the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Premier Mike Baird applauded his predecessor's "enormous contribution" to NSW.

"Barry is one of only three leaders who have taken the Coalition from opposition to government in NSW. An accomplished parliamentarian, he dominated the Legislative Assembly, both as opposition leader and premier," Mr Baird said.

"The list of achievements and reforms is long and significant, and includes: the Public Service Commission; Service NSW; the new convention centre, which he jump-started from opposition; and getting the State's finances in order.

"A highlight was the establishment of Infrastructure NSW, which finally removed the politics and pork-barrelling from decisions on major projects, and which stands as a monument to his tenure," he said.

"I am convinced that Barry's contribution to the community, though enormous, has just begun. On behalf of Kerryn and myself, and on behalf of the government, I wish him and Rosemary every good fortune as they face their next adventure."



AWGA - News Update

In April, Mr O'Farrell fronted ICAC during its inquiry into Australian Water Holdings (AWH). The former Premier denied to the commission that he had ever received a \$3000 bottle of Penfolds Grange red wine from AWH chief executive Nick Di Girolamo in 2011.

After a thank you note from Mr O'Farrell to Mr Di Girolamo was uncovered, however, Mr O'Farrell stood down as Premier, citing a "massive memory fail."

During the ICAC inquiry it was made clear that Mr O'Farrell was not involved in any wrongdoing in relation to the dealings of AWH and its lobbying for the Sydney Water contract.

<http://www.theland.com.au/news/agriculture/general/politics/ofarrell-to-retire-from-politics/2718143.aspx>