



Greg Piper, MP
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A Welcome Change of Leadership for NSW

Independent NSW State MP Greg Piper says that with new leadership NSW has a chance for a new direction. Premier Rees and Deputy Premier Tebbutt will have plenty to do as they set out to repair both the state and the NSW ALP.

"While the scale of events leading to the resignation of Premier Morris lemma on Friday 5th September may have come as a surprise, there should have been no surprise that something dramatic would occur.," said Mr Piper. "The corporately-badged "lemma Labor Government" had lost touch with the people of NSW. They indulged in power politics, acting arrogantly and unapologetically as they so often went against the clear will of the majority."

Morris lemma seemed to be seduced by the power he held after having won the "unwinnable" election of 2007. Even though many could see that his government was rife with factional problems, Mr lemma and his lieutenants just didn't get it.

Perhaps the final nail in the political coffin for the "Emperor in new clothing" was his cynical promise that if power privatisation was defeated in the Upper House, then it was finished – "there is no Plan B!" Adjourning Parliament and immediately moving to Plan B exposed an unabashed lie, further inflaming opponents to privatisation and totally destroying Morris lemma's credibility.

According to Mr Piper, there are times when our leaders need to make the tough calls. When that is the case they should properly explain themselves and not rely on the bullying tactics that were the hallmark of Michael Costa's tilt at privatisation.

The purported need for a mini-budget after the failure to privatise power stations also showed that his speech to Parliament introducing the current budget was misleading at least, when it was clearly stated that the budget was not premised on the proceeds from power privatisation.

"I suspect there is a need for a serious look at the current and future budget plans," Mr Piper said. "After 13 years of Labor government we are facing the truth that the state has been mismanaged and this was the real need for power privatisation".

"Premier Nathan Rees may be relatively inexperienced, but he is articulate and intelligent and appears to be well-grounded with the electorate. Deputy Premier Carmel Tebbutt is a respected and proven performer who will be an asset to the new Premier," said Mr Piper. "It will be huge job to repair people's confidence in the NSW ALP and in government generally. For their own sake and the sake of the people of NSW I wish them all the best."