

# Hon Frank Hough JP MLC

*Member for Agriculture*

**National Director, One Nation**

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## Media Release

*Thursday, 22 May 2003.*

### **Prostitution Bill Too Costly**

One Nation National Director and Agriculture MLC, Frank Hough, will oppose the Prostitution Control Bill when it goes before the Upper House.

“The Bill is an absolute travesty as it was drafted without input from the sex industry or community groups”.

“My main objection to the Bill lies in the fact that it vests too much power with the police force while threatening to impose negative working conditions on all sex workers”.

“For a start, the Bill was drafted by police persons at a high level without meaningful community and sex industry representation. I believe this was done because there’s voter appeal in appearing tough on law and order. However I have concerns that the high degree of police input will go on to entrench police control of the sex industry”.

“The Bill does little to improve the working conditions for brothel workers and it places sole operators at risk by forcing them to work from their own homes where they are not permitted to hire a security guard or even a receptionist”.

Mr Hough is also aware of the many negative effects of the Prostitution Act 2000, the tough ‘streetwalker’ legislation introduced by the then Liberal Government. The Act has been rolled, without review, into Labor’s proposed Prostitution Control Bill.

“While the Act had little effect on the number of prostitutes walking the streets it did serve to diminish a lot of streetwalkers by removing access to outreach centres and prostitutes’ safety networks” he said.

“I call for the immediate investigation of the effects of this Act because there is hard evidence to suggest it is not working. Local residents are saying they are still being terrorised by kerb crawlers and also fear for the safety of the workers. When will the Gallop government get real and provide more than jail sentences to people in crisis?”

Mr Hough believes the entire Bill needs to be totally scrapped and redrafted with industry and community input. “Perhaps the best available model currently in operation for sex industry law reform is the model currently in place in the South Sydney Council. Prostitution was first fully decriminalised and now there’s a rate of almost 100% compliance”

“The decriminalisation aspect is of paramount importance because prostitution must be dealt with just like any other industry that offers services. The criminal taint must be removed first. The prostitution Control Bill wants to place regulation before decriminalisation and that’s the tail wagging the dog,” Mr Hough said.

**For further information contact: Frank Hough on 0418 920 772**