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MEDIA RELEASE

CDP SUPPORTS LEGISLATION TARGETING DRUG PUSHERS

For immediate circulation

The NSW State Government has introduced a new Bill which will regulate a new pilot scheme that targets those who are supplying drug. Yesterday, Rev Fred Nile MLC spoke in favour of this Bill before the NSW Legislative Council. His speech appears below, extracted from the parliamentary *Hansard*.

DRUG SUPPLY PROHIBITION ORDER PILOT SCHEME BILL 2020

Reverend the Hon. FRED NILE (17:39:50): I speak in support of the Drug Supply Prohibition Order Pilot Scheme Bill 2020. The bill implements the New South Wales Government's election commitment to introduce drug supply prohibition orders. I congratulate the Government for moving in that direction when we have a serious drug supply problem in New South Wales, especially with drug promoters wanting to involve our young people. I believe the bill will become a very strong deterrent, even though it is only a pilot scheme. I assume the pilot scheme will be successful and it will become part of legislation for the future.

The bill gives police the ability to apply to the court for new powers to search people who are subject to a drug supply prohibition order—as well as their homes and vehicles—at any time without a warrant whilst in a pilot area. I note that The Greens will have a heart attack over that provision, but there you are. The two-year pilot scheme is designed to provide police with the tools to disrupt and deter convicted drug dealers who are likely to re-engage in drug supply activities and manufacturing networks. The drug supply

prohibition orders will be issued by authorised magistrates on application from the NSW Police Force. They will be available in respect of adults who have been convicted of a serious drug offence in the past 10 years, such as supply or manufacture of an indictable quantity of a prohibited drug, and who are considered likely to continue to engage in drug supply or manufacture.

If a drug supply prohibition order is issued it will enable police to search a person and their vehicle or residence without the need to obtain an additional warrant. Those searches can only be exercised in the four pilot scheme areas. A drug supply prohibition order will be in force for a minimum of six months, at which time the subject of the drug supply prohibition order will be able to apply to the local court for the order to be revoked. The legislation has many positive reforms dealing with the police powers. The scheme will initially only operate in the Bankstown Police Area Command, the Coffs-Clarence Police District, the Hunter Valley Police District and the Orana Mid-Western Police District. Proposed section 5 provides that drug supply prohibition orders can only be made against adults who have had a prior conviction of a serious drug offence in the past 10 years.

The bill will also include the protection of criminal intelligence; a range of provisions in the bill ensure that criminal intelligence relied upon by police is protected throughout the application process. The bill also outlines the duration of the order. Proposed section 12 provides that a drug supply prohibition order commences when it is made; however, a search cannot be conducted unless the subject has been served with the order. The magistrate can specify a period of the order that is not less than six months. If no period is specified the order will remain valid until the end of the pilot period. I fully support a number of practical aspects of the legislation, which I believe will make it workable and successful. The pilot will be a success and it will then be expanded across the whole of New South Wales. I commend the bill to the House.

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