MEDIA RELEASE

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RED TAPE SLASHED FOR FUNDRAISING IN NSW

More time and money can now be spent on worthy causes, with games of chance such as raffles, art unions, bingo and sweeps to have their red tape slashed through new legislation introduced to Parliament this week.

Minister for Better Regulation Matt Kean said the games were crucial for NSW groups to fundraise, with proceeds usually going to vulnerable members of the community.

"We're taking the axe to red tape to enable charities, businesses and clubs to raise much needed funds," Mr Kean said.

"These organisations play a critical role in the community, often providing essential support to disadvantaged people and vulnerable families, such as at risk youth or people with disabilities.

"In addition to making it easier to raise money, these changes will also give authorities the power to crack down on any dodgy behaviour."

The legislation will also bolster the compliance and enforcement powers of NSW Fair Trading so it can issue penalty notices to those who break the law. Serious breaches will still go before the courts.

Mr Kean said the NSW Liberal & Nationals Government was committed to making business easier, and cutting red tape where possible.

"Our desire and efforts to cut red tape will always set us apart from Luke Foley and the Labor Party," Mr Kean said.

"Labor has no policy to make sure more money goes to good causes, but we know the opposition leader would rather load up businesses and community organisations with paperwork and administration, than let them raise money for the needy.

"Games of chance are also now run online, so we're making sure consumers are protected and the integrity of these highly popular games is maintained, especially when the prizes are worth big bucks."

The Community Gaming Bill 2018 replaces the Lotteries and Art Unions Act 1901. Fair Trading took over the administration of the Act from Liquor and Gaming NSW on 1 January 2018.

For more information on community gaming reforms, visit www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

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