



**NSW: Iemma willing to consider charter of rights proposal**

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NSW Premier Morris Iemma says he is willing to consider the introduction of a charter of rights for the state.

Mr Iemma says state cabinet will discuss plans for a charter of rights, already introduced in the ACT and being considered by the Victorian government.

In the ACT, the supreme court has the power to declare laws incompatible with the territory's Human Rights Act.

However, the ACT Legislative Assembly can choose to ignore the court and allow a law to remain in force.

Mr Iemma says he does not support the introduction of a bill of rights but is willing to consider Attorney-General Bob Debus's proposal for a charter of rights.

"I understand the attorney (general) has a different proposal than just a full-blown bill of rights," Mr Iemma says.

"I'll examine his proposal."

During his time in office, former premier Bob Carr refused calls from civil libertarians for the introduction of a bill of rights, saying such a law would give too much power to judges.

NSW Opposition legal affairs spokesman Chris Hartcher agrees with Mr Carr that a bill of rights is a bad idea because it will take power away from the democratically elected parliament.

He is also sceptical about the merits of an ACT-style charter of rights.

"All that will do is drag out court cases while not actually achieving anything," Mr Hartcher says.