

Parole Determination Hamish Earle McLaren

8 May 2026

Parole order bans Hamish McLaren from controlling money or assets, or entering 11 exclusion zones

Offender Hamish Earle McLaren has been granted parole subject to strict conditions including a ban on engaging in any work, paid or unpaid, that involves managing or controlling the money or assets of another person or organisation.

His parole order for the next three years also bans him from entering or visiting three suburbs and eight LGAs across NSW.

They are the suburbs of Muswellbrook; Scone; Singleton and LGAs of Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore, Mid Coast, Newcastle, Northern Beaches, Richmond Valley and Tenterfield.

In 2017, McLaren was convicted of 17 counts of defrauding 15 victims of more than \$7.6 million while operating a Ponzi scheme.

On appeal he was sentenced to a total of 12 years for serious financial crimes with a non-parole period of nine years to be served in prison, as ordered by the Sentencing Judge.

At a meeting to assess his suitability for parole, the Parole Authority considered material and evidence, including McLaren:

- Participated in extensive day and weekend leaves with the support of his partner
- Attended full time work release for the past nine months with an offer of ongoing employment upon release
- Was ineligible for any treatment programs but completed several education courses

A pre-release report said McLaren had been psychiatrically and psychologically assessed, with experts concluding his criminal behaviour was driven by “greed” and “deficient personality traits” rather than any mental illness or disorder.

The report said McLaren was “described as presenting with long-standing patterns of maladaptive personality traits that include manipulation of others and dishonesty for his own personal gain, both financially and to boost his own self-esteem”.

The Authority was told he will engage in ongoing psychological treatment and counselling as part of his ongoing rehabilitation in the community.

Having considered all the available evidence, the Authority decided granting McLaren parole means he will be closely supervised by authorities during his reintegration - which is the

safest option for the protection of the community.

He will be released from custody on 10 July 2026.

Parole Conditions

McLaren must comply with 11 standard conditions of parole, as well as additional conditions imposed by the Authority that he must not:

- engage in any activity, paid or unpaid, involving the control of money or assets of other people or organisations.
- Not contact, communicate with, stalk, intimidate, harass the victims
- Not frequent or visit the suburbs of Muswellbrook; Scone; Singleton and LGAs of Byron Shire, Clarence Valley, Lismore, Mid Coast, Newcastle, Northern Beaches, Richmond Valley and Tenterfield

His parole order expires on 10 July 2029, unless revoked.