

NSW:Sniffer dogs will continue to be used in drug searches:Carr

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Sniffer Carr

SYDNEY, Nov 1 AAP - Sniffer dogs would continue to be used by NSW police as a crime fighting tool against drugs, Premier Bob Carr said today.

But concerns among civil libertarians that they infringed on people's rights would be examined, he said.

The comments followed yesterday's ruling by a magistrate that the use of sniffer dogs to detect people carrying drugs in public places was unlawful.

The ruling by Deputy Chief Magistrate Mary Jerram means people caught carrying drugs in the past year by sniffer dogs may have their cases deferred pending an appeal to the Supreme Court by the Police Service.

Mr Carr said he would discuss the issue with NSW Police Commissioner Peter Ryan and civil libertarians.

"I don't want to see NSW become a police state, but I don't see how you can take this very useful tool away from the police," Mr Carr told reporters.

"I'd be as concerned as anyone if they were being used to infringe people's civil liberties but I don't see how sniffer dogs override the civil liberties of anyone."

Mr Carr said sniffer dogs had been extremely effective, especially in keeping drugs out of prisons.

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