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## Disgraced MP Ward Fights Parliamentary Expulsion

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Convicted former Liberal MP Gareth Ward will appear in the New South Wales Supreme Court today to challenge the Labor government's attempt to remove him from parliament. The Kiama representative, found guilty last week of multiple sexual offenses including rape, currently remains in custody awaiting sentencing. His legal battle raises complex questions about parliamentary accountability versus due process.

The jury convicted Ward on four charges involving two young men – indecent assault against an 18-year-old in 2013 and non-consensual intercourse with a 24-year-old in 2015. Despite bipartisan calls for his resignation, the disgraced politician continues drawing parliamentary salary while fighting expulsion through legal channels. This situation highlights gaps in mechanisms for removing convicted legislators between verdict and sentencing.

Legal experts note the constitutional complexities surrounding Ward's case. While parliamentary privilege traditionally protects members from interference, serious criminal convictions present uncharted territory. The Labor government's expulsion push tests the limits of legislative authority versus judicial outcomes. Ward's defense likely hinges on technical appeals processes before sentencing is finalized.

This sordid episode underscores systemic failures in political accountability. Whether through Ward's stubborn refusal to resign or procedural loopholes allowing convicted criminals to retain office, the situation damages public trust. As the court weighs parliamentary privilege against criminal conviction, one truth emerges – Australia's political system desperately needs clearer safeguards against such disgraceful spectacles. The people of Kiama deserve better representation, and victims deserve justice unimpeded by political technicalities.