



Anthony Albanese

Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government

Sharon Grierson

Member for Newcastle

Joint Media Release

RECORD FUNDING FOR LOCAL ROADS

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, and Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, today announced \$10,683,841 to go to local Councils in Newcastle, Port Stephens and the Great Lakes as part of the Rudd Labor Government's \$1.75 billion Roads to Recovery Program.

Councils will receive this unprecedented Federal funding over five years, to help maintain and upgrade local roads.

Noting the importance of this contribution to the region, Sharon Grierson said "This is not just about the maintenance and improvement of local roads, but also the ongoing stimulus of local jobs and industry in the current economic climate."

"Along with recent announcements of the record \$1.9 billion in Financial Assistance Grants to councils, and the \$800 million from the Community Infrastructure Program – the largest ever Federal investment in local infrastructure – this latest injection is a shining example of the Rudd Labor Government's support of local councils across Australia. Our regional share of this money is a very sizeable contribution to the regional economy."

The funding is untied, with councils able to spend their allocations on the local priorities identified by local communities.

The five year allocation (2009/10 to 2013/14) for each local council is:

- Newcastle City Council - \$4,245,665
- Port Stephens Council - \$2,734,133
- Great Lakes Council - \$3,704,043

These funding allocations are based on the recommendations of State/Territory Local Government grants commissions.

"The \$1.75 billion Roads to Recovery Program represents an increase of \$250 million by the Rudd Labor Government when compared to the previous government's allocation," Mr Albanese said.

"This is a significant investment in the safety and condition of local roads."

"All up, our record roads funding for the nation's councils and shires will deliver more than 20,000 minor road projects in every part of the country over the next five years."

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Media contact - Sharon Grierson MP's Office – (02) 4926 1555