



Len Blakeney
Regional Manager, Master Builders Association



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Joint Media Release

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Social Housing Investment to Provide Support for Local Jobs

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced an investment of more than \$5.3 million towards improving the quality of social housing for the Newcastle electorate.

Almost 900 homes are slated for repairs and maintenance across Newcastle, improving the quality of life for the tenants residing in them.

The repairs and maintenance will generate much needed work across a variety of local industries.

"Nationwide, this \$1.1 billion project is one part of the Rudd Labor Government's \$6.4 billion social housing investment," Ms Grierson said.

Len Blakeney, Master Builders Association Regional Manager, welcomed the investment for the local building and construction industries and the support for local jobs.

"Local builders are keen to start work on these projects, with hundreds of jobs expected to be supported in the Newcastle area over the next two years," Mr Blakeney said.

"All trades, from electricians to plumbers to carpet layers, can benefit from the work that will be provided."

Tradesmen and builders will be commencing work immediately, contracting with State Housing Authorities for work on the 897 houses that need maintenance and repairs around the Newcastle area.

The remaining \$5.3 billion will go towards the construction of over 20,000 new homes for low income earners nationwide, another area in which Newcastle is set to benefit. Tenders for these projects close on 9 April, 2009 in New South Wales.

"The funding combines the economic stimulus our region needs with improvements to social housing – keeping people in jobs and in homes," Ms Grierson said.

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