



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
28 April 2009

New Newcastle Regional Museum to Rejuvenate CBD

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today welcomed the announcement of \$8.5 million in funding to go towards the construction of a new Newcastle Regional Museum, as part of the Rudd Labor Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects initiative.

"For Newcastle to receive such a significant investment in its local infrastructure shows the commitment the Rudd Labor Government has to our region," Ms Grierson said.

"Construction of the new museum will provide invaluable support to local jobs and the economy, and help rejuvenate the Newcastle CBD."

This project, which is being managed by the Newcastle City Council, will serve as both an historical museum and interactive exhibition space. It will include:

- Supernova Science Centre;
- World War I and World War II displays;
- Newcastle Earthquake information;
- Indigenous cultural and historical exhibits; and
- Educational and entertainment programs for all ages.

The Government is contributing one-third of the funding for this project.

A limited number of grants were allocated to local councils across Australia on a competitive basis, with projects having to seek a Commonwealth contribution of at least \$2 million, and be ready for construction within six months of a contract being signed.

This latest announcement brings a total of \$32,465,665 in infrastructure spending from the Rudd Labor Government to Newcastle in 2009, and \$729,803,283 in infrastructure spending since the beginning of 2008.

"In a time of economic downturn, this level of funding provides an important boost to the city's economy," Ms Grierson said.

"I will work closely with the Newcastle City Council to ensure that this project is completed on time and within budget."

Media contacts: 4926 1555