



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**25 June 2009**

### **Local Councils to Share in Further Federal Funding**

Minister for Infrastructure and Local Government, Anthony Albanese, and Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, today announced that Newcastle City Council and Port Stephens City Council have been offered over \$1.2 million to assist them to build new or upgrade existing community facilities such as libraries, community centres and sports grounds.

Newcastle City Council has been offered \$807,000 and Port Stephens Council \$404,000.

Mr Albanese said the new funding has been made available following the \$220 million boost to the Community Infrastructure Program announced today by the Prime Minister at the second meeting of the Australian Council of Local Government.

"Today's announcement builds on \$11,353,000 already provided between these two councils, since the establishment of the Community Infrastructure Program just eight months ago," said Mr Albanese.

"It is also in addition to the regular funding they receive from our Roads to Recovery Program and Financial Assistance Grants."

"The Government is working with councils across my electorate to modernise the nation's community infrastructure and equip the sector with the tools essential to long term financial sustainability," Ms Grierson said.

"Given the constraints on their funding from the Global Financial Crisis these additional funds are most welcome."

"With optimum use of this federal funding by councils funding, together we can support local jobs today by building the infrastructure our communities will need tomorrow."

Local councils will also be able to compete for the \$120 million for larger strategic projects.

The Government will start delivering the extra \$220 million to councils and shires towards the end of 2009, giving councils the time to complete the existing projects funded under the Community Infrastructure Program.

Guidelines will be available in the near future. For further information: <http://www.aclg.gov.au/cip/index.aspx>

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