



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
2 February 2010

Interest Rates on Hold is Good News for Working Families

The decision taken by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) today to keep interest rates on hold is good news for working families and small business in Newcastle, says Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP.

This decision means a family with a \$300,000 mortgage is still paying around \$600 a month less in mortgage repayments than they were 18 months ago.

"Newcastle has been doing well under the Rudd Government's stimulus packages and investment programs, with over \$1.37 billion invested into Newcastle to sustain employment and economic activity since forming government," says Ms Grierson.

"But today's reprieve will help to ease the financial pressure at what is traditionally a financially tough time for many working families as children return to school and household budgets recover from Christmas and holiday spending."

With the official cash rate to stay at 3.75%, interest rates remain at historical lows. However as the recovery progresses, the RBA has flagged that interest rates will continue to move from their 50 year emergency lows.

"The Rudd Government's economic stimulus has kept Australia out of recession and protected Australia from the worst of the GFC, and it is important that it continues as planned to provide further support for working families," says Ms Grierson.

"I look forward to this hold on interest rates being honoured by the big banks."

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