



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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CFMEU CONTRIBUTION ON GREENHOUSE DEBATE WELCOME

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, has today welcomed the CFMEU's contribution to the greenhouse debate.

"It acknowledges that a planned agenda of political, industry and community cooperation is needed to address climate change, and that investment in research into emissions reduction and clean coal technology is vital," Ms Grierson said.

"Workers in the mining industry, and all the associated engineering and manufacturing industries, have a keen understanding that coal is part of Newcastle's history, our present, and our future."

"By contrast, simplistic calls to cap our coal industry show little understanding of Newcastle's track record in natural resource production and management."

"The Newcastle location of the CSIRO Energy Flagship was no accident, and I would welcome any policy that complements its ongoing research into coal bed methane projects, carbon capture, clean coal and renewable energy."

"Coal has been a major contributor to our economic prosperity for over 200 years. It will continue to be a part of Australia's energy mix, and the Hunter will keep playing its part in mining, production and export."

"In reducing emissions from fossil fuels and increasing our use of sustainable energy, Australia must keep our options open by investing in a wide spread of technologies."

"But while the Howard Government plays catch-up, Federal Labor released its 'Blueprint to Avoid Dangerous Climate Change' in March this year - committing us to working towards a target of 60% cuts to greenhouse emissions by 2050."

"The Blueprint also commits us to ratifying the Kyoto protocol, establishing a national carbon trading scheme and substantially increasing the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target."

"This is part of our comprehensive response to climate change and ensuring a sustainable future."

"Newcastle and the Hunter have a big role to play in that future."

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