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RUDD & GILLARD TO TAKE FEDERAL LABOR FORWARD

The election of Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard to the leadership of the Australian Labor Party is a positive move for Labor and for the nation.

Settling the leadership question gives the Federal Labor Party the opportunity to focus solely on defeating the Howard Government at the next election.

The people of Newcastle and Australia expect nothing less from us.

Both Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard have recently visited Newcastle, were well received and are well aware of the issues facing our community.

I am confident that they will continue to show a strong interest in our region as Leader and Deputy Leader of the Federal Labor Party.

In moving forward with a new leadership team, I also offer my thanks to Kim Beazley and Jenny Macklin.

It was obviously a difficult decision to change leaders, especially from two people who have worked so hard to rebuild Labor after the 1996 election.

However I believe that this change ensures we have the best possible opportunity to win the 2007 election and deliver to the Australian people a better government, committed to meeting their needs and restoring integrity and unity to our nation.

I look forward to working as part of a united Labor team committed to making Kevin Rudd the next Prime Minister of Australia.

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