



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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FRESH CALLS FOR STADIUM FUNDING

Novocastrians distraught at the retirement of Joey Johns can take some small comfort that the events of yesterday have refocussed the community on the need to finish the upgrade of the Stadium where so many of our Champion's magic moments were played out.

Football fans across the region, our sporting bodies, tourism and business groups and the general community are united in calling on the Federal Government to contribute to a new Western Grandstand.

Federal Labor Leader Kevin Rudd, on a visit to Newcastle in March, responded to the call and committed a Rudd Labor Government to financially supporting the Western Grandstand upgrade.

This is great news for our community, and I look forward to working with Kevin on the details of our commitment ahead of this year's Federal election.

Kevin Rudd's commitment, along with that of Premier Morris Iemma, leaves John Howard as the only one standing in the way.

It would be a fitting tribute to Joey for the Eastern Grandstand to be named after him.

And it would be a fitting tribute if his retirement kicks off the next wave of community support that will lead to the long awaited upgrade of the Western Grandstand.

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