

**Sharon Grierson MP**

Federal Member for  
Newcastle

**Joel Fitzgibbon MP**

Federal Member for  
Hunter

**Jill Hall MP**

Federal Member for  
Shortland

**Jim Arneman**

Labor Candidate for Paterson

**Greg Combet**

Labor Candidate for Charlton

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Federal Labor Finalises Hunter Package With \$10 Million for EnergyAustralia Stadium**

Federal Labor today finalised its comprehensive package of commitments for the Hunter Region with the announcement that it would contribute \$10 million towards the EnergyAustralia Stadium redevelopment.

Labor's \$10 million commitment, along with the \$12 million already released by the State Government this year, will enable the completion of tiered seating on the south-western and north-western concourses, linked by replacement tiered seating along the western field boundary - an increase of almost 2,000 spectator seats.

It would also ensure much-needed upgrades to player change-rooms and warm up facilities, as well as ambulance, police and security areas.

Federal Labor will work cooperatively with the NSW Government and the Hunter International Sports Centre Trust as the redevelopment project progresses.

The Region has been crying out for the Commonwealth to contribute to this project, however John Howard and Bob Baldwin have failed to deliver.

Labor MPs and candidates said today that after 11 years of Howard Government neglect, there were many other areas where investment in our region was needed.

In addition to the \$10 million commitment to EnergyAustralia Stadium, Labor's package of investment in the Hunter includes:

#### **Health:**

- Secure, long-term funding for the GP Access After Hours clinics at Toronto Polyclinic, and Newcastle Community Health Centre, and Maitland, Belmont and John Hunter hospitals.
- \$5 million to establish *GP Super Clinics* in the electorates of Charlton and Paterson.
- Medicare licences for an MRI and a PET scanner in the Hunter Region.
- The establishment of a Medicare Office in Belmont.
- \$200,000 to complete the Hunter Dementia & Memory Resource Centre.
- Two Defence Family Health Clinics to service the Singleton and Williamtown bases.

**Climate Change:**

- A \$55 million investment in clean coal research and projects in the Hunter.
- \$50 million to establish the Australian Solar Institute at CSIRO Mayfield.

**Transport:**

- \$150 million for approvals and planning to get started on connecting the F3 to the Sydney Orbital, with further funding to be determined once these processes are completed.
- A freight rail refuge near Broadmeadow, bi-directional freight loops in the Morisset/Awaba area, and bi-directional signaling between Gosford and Newcastle to provide more opportunities for passenger trains to overtake freight services.

**Assistance for Employers & Employees:**

- A Fair Work Australia office in Newcastle to service business and workers in the Hunter Region.

**Small Business:**

- \$300,000 for the Business Enterprise Centre at Kurri Kurri.

**Child Care:**

- A new child care centre to ease shortages in Newcastle.

**Flood Management:**

- \$90,000 for a flood early warning system for Wallsend.

**Sport & Recreation:**

- \$200,000 to extend the Nelson Bay PCYC Gymnasium.
- \$118,000 for the Morisset PCYC Outreach Centre.
- \$30,000 for the Tea Gardens Skate Park.
- Up to \$15,000 for a new Gym at Mallabula Panthers Football Club.

In addition to these specific commitments for the Hunter Region, our community will also benefit from comprehensive national policies like Kevin Rudd's **Education Revolution**, our plan to build a **National Broadband Network**, our plan for **responsible tax cuts for working families**, our **Affordable Housing** plan, our package of **financial assistance for older Australians**, and our investment in infrastructure like **roads and rail**.

Labor MPs and candidates said today that this comprehensive package of commitments could only be delivered for our region if strong local Labor representatives were elected to a Rudd Labor Government on Saturday.

**22 NOVEMBER 2007**