



**THE HON KATE ELLIS MP
MINISTER FOR SPORT
&
SHARON GRIERSON MP
MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE**

MEDIA RELEASE

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FUNDING POWERS DEVELOPMENT OF STADIUM

The Rudd Government has reaffirmed its commitment of \$10 million to help drive upgrades to Energy Australia Stadium in Newcastle.

Visiting the stadium the Minister for Sport, Kate Ellis and the Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said the Government would deliver on its election commitment to contribute towards the redevelopment and upgrade of the stadium.

“Our commitment of \$10 million, together with funding from the NSW state government, will help with the development of a new western grandstand and upgrade player change rooms and warm up facilities,” Ms Ellis said.

“The funding will also support improvements to the stadium’s ambulance, police and security areas.”

The funding was provided for in the *Appropriation Bill No 3* introduced in the Senate on 11 March, which, once passed by Parliament, will deliver \$7 million this financial year, with the remaining \$3 million available in 2008-09.

“Sport plays a vital role in the social and cultural life of the Newcastle and Hunter Valley region, and Energy Australia Stadium is very much a focal point for the local community,” Ms Ellis said.

“The Newcastle Knights and Newcastle United Jets need a home ground with first-rate facilities to support and accommodate both players and spectators alike.

The Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson said she was pleased to have secured \$10 million in federal funding for Energy Australia Stadium.

“The Rudd Government will work with the NSW Government and the Newcastle International Sports Centre Trust to ensure the stadium continues to be the high-quality stadium Newcastle deserves,” Ms Grierson said.