



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

Media Release
14 April 2008

International Bravery Nomination for Hunter Rescue Crew

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP today welcomed the Australian Government's nomination of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service (Hunter Region) for the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

"This rescue was the biggest national airlift from a bulk carrier in recent Australian maritime history." Ms Grierson said.

"There is no doubt that the crew risked their own lives that day in order to rescue the 22 crew members stranded on the Pasha Bulker."

"I join the Newcastle community in recognising this extraordinary local achievement."

"That sort of selflessness and courage is worthy of the highest recognition."

"Their bravery was matched only by their professionalism and skill and I commend the Australian Government for recognising the commitment of the Newcastle crew that day."

"That this is an international award underscores the significance of the rescue and the talent of the crew."

"We should recognise that this was one of over 1000 missions that the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service provides in the Hunter, Mid North Coast, New England and North West regions."

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