



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**6 May 2008**  
**Media Release**

### **Inaugural Innovation Festival Kicks off in Newcastle**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, will tonight congratulate 16 innovative Hunter businesses showcased at the 2008 Hunter Means Innovation Festival launch at the Boilershop.

The 2008 Hunter Means Innovation Festival is the inaugural festival for the Hunter region being held over a two-week period ending on 16 May 2008.

Ms Grierson, representing Senator Kim Carr, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, will present each of the companies with certificates in recognition of their contribution to innovation in the Hunter region.

"When it comes to recognising innovation and creativity in the Hunter, these companies clearly demonstrate that we have much to be proud of," Ms Grierson said today.

"The Hunter has been long known for its rich innovative history and entrepreneurial spirit and this festival gives us the opportunity to stand up and be counted."

Ms Grierson said the festival captured the Rudd Government's commitment to Australian innovation.

"As this festival recognises, innovation is critical to Australia's future prosperity. It is the key to addressing the challenges we face both as a nation and as a planet, and is the key to securing high-wage, high-skill jobs for Newcastle in the decades to come."

The festival includes 50 events conducted and managed by event sponsors in 13 different locations throughout Newcastle and the Hunter Valley and two on the Central Coast.

The festival features events ranging from seminars, art exhibitions, showcases, tours, public lectures and workshops, all designed to increase public awareness of the importance of sustaining a culture of innovation in the Hunter region.

Ms Grierson said one of the sponsors was *AusIndustry*, the Australian Government's business program delivery division, which has provided innovation funding to some of the businesses under various programs.

**Canberra**  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



**Newcastle**  
427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)



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Companies on show include:

- ATSA Defence Services Pty Ltd which has developed the SeaVision Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), which provides a reliable, cost-effective method for exploring and mapping underwater coastal environments.
- Corky's Sustainable Energy Pty Ltd will showcase its biomass and waste-to-energy gasification technology that generates base load renewable energy from agricultural waste and municipal solid waste.
- Logikal Health Pty Ltd has commercialised its unique portable drug device - Mobi-Drip - a simple and inexpensive method of supplying fluids to patients from a mobile pack.

To find out more about AusIndustry's products call the NSW State office on 02 9226 6000, or Graham Baker and Jo Whipp in the Newcastle Hunter Region office on 02 4960 3823, on the hotline 13 28 46, visit the AusIndustry website [www.ausindustry.gov.au](http://www.ausindustry.gov.au), or email [hotline@innovation.gov.au](mailto:hotline@innovation.gov.au)

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House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
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Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



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427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)