



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Delivering on our commitments, investing in our future

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said today that the Rudd Government's first Budget has delivered on election promises and invested in the long-term needs of the nation.

"The Government's \$55 billion Working Families Package delivers on our promised tax cuts, and helps Australian families with childcare and education costs," Ms Grierson said.

"Importantly, the Budget has also provided \$2.4 billion to Australian Seniors and Carers."

"But we have also looked at ways we can continue the fight against inflation by reining in unnecessary and wasteful spending which was rampant under the previous government."

"This Budget is underpinned by long-term investment in areas critical to our future productivity and prosperity such as health, infrastructure and education."

"We take our commitments seriously, and we are already delivering on the productive infrastructure projects I campaigned on at last year's election."

For Newcastle this means:

- \$100 million for solar research to be administered by the Australian Solar Institute, building on the work CSIRO Newcastle.
- \$25 million to support clean coal and advanced fossil fuel technology development.
- \$15.76 million for the Weakleys Drive interchange.
- \$15.4 million for capital works at the Williamstown RAAF base.
- \$15 million to complete planning for a dedicated freight track between Strathfield and Newcastle.
- \$13.6 million grant for infrastructure at the University of Newcastle.
- \$10 million now allocated for the redevelopment of EnergyAustralia Stadium.
- Expanded access to Medicare eligible MRI scans, including one in the Newcastle/Hunter/Maitland,
- Funding for the Calvary Mater PET scanner, and further funding for its upgrade.
- Funding for a new child care centre in the Merewether-Hamilton area.
- Secure funding for GP Access After Hours services.
- Funding for the Australian Customs Service to improve port security, including Newcastle.

"This Budget meets our commitments to the people of Newcastle and positions Australia for the long term challenges by expanding the productive capacity of our economy and providing for appropriate levels of social investment."

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