



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1.6 MILLION FOR NEWCASTLE UNI RESEARCH

Innovative research into energy efficient mining and manufacturing technologies are among the six new research projects at the University of Newcastle sharing in \$1,660,054 over four years, Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson announced today.

The funds are provided through the Australian Research Council's *Linkage Project* grants.

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson welcomed the funding, saying it was an acknowledgement of the particular strengths of our University and of our region.

"I'm very pleased to see research being funded by the Commonwealth into energy efficiency and mining technology - areas which are vital to Newcastle and the Hunter's future," Ms Grierson said.

"Grants for research into the health of older people and into marine systems are also very relevant for our community."

"The *Linkage Projects* are all about collaboration across disciplines, sectors and geographic boundaries so I welcome the involvement in this research of partner organisations like BHP Billiton Innovation, Hunter Water Corporation, UnitingCare Ageing NSW and Bluescope Steel."

"\$1.6 million is a great share of this year's *Linkage Project* funding for Newcastle University, and reflects our region's reputation for innovation and excellence in research."

The 6 projects to be administered by the University of Newcastle will investigate:

- performance issues concerning prolonged energy storage in supercapacitors,
- the efficient extraction of valuable metals from mined ore,
- the development of more energy efficient belt conveyers for the mining industry,
- the use of pulverised coal injection methods to improve energy efficiency in blast furnaces,
- the impact on oysters of contaminants in marine ecosystems, and
- environmental and housing policies designed to combat disease and disability in older people.

More information on the grants is available at www.arc.gov.au.

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