



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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Media Release

MORE FUNDS TO TACKLE NEWCASTLE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG

Sharon Grierson says further funding announced by the Rudd Labor Government today will help local councils in our region tackle the backlog of local community infrastructure.

This financial year Newcastle City Council will be offered \$1,913,000, Maitland City Council \$1,123,000, and Port Stephens Council \$940,000. They will also be eligible to apply on a competitive basis for larger projects seeking a minimum Commonwealth contribution of \$2 million or more.

The Prime Minister announced today that local councils would share in \$300 million in funds to invest in social and cultural infrastructure, sport, recreation and tourism facilities, and access facilities such as footbridges, bus shelters and boat ramps.

Significantly, the funds will need to be spent this financial year to provide an immediate stimulus to our local economy.

"Our local councils have a significant backlog of infrastructure projects," Ms Grierson said today.

"This Commonwealth funding will help us to address those urgent needs, creating better amenities for people in Newcastle."

"It is also another significant injection of funds that will help to keep our regional economy strong during the global economic crisis – that's why it's vital our councils identify projects, apply for funding and begin work as soon as possible."

"This \$300 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program is another example of the new partnership being forged between the Rudd Labor Government and local councils."

"I look forward to working with our councils to identify local infrastructure needs and put forward quality proposals for funding under this new program."

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