



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

12 December 2008

Media Release

HALF A BILLION DOLLARS FOR HUNTER COAL CHAIN

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson says a \$580 million investment in the Hunter coal chain is a further sign that the Rudd Labor Government understands the importance of our region to the national economy.

The Prime Minister today announced \$580 million to more than double the rail capacity along the coal chain between the Hunter Valley and the Port of Newcastle.

"This is great news for our local economy," Ms Grierson said.

"It will help maintain jobs and confidence in our region, and boost the capacity of the vital coal industry."

"It is also a recognition of the contribution that Newcastle and the Hunter make to the national economy, and the vital role that we have in keeping our nation strong during the global financial crisis."

The funding announced today is part of a \$4.7 billion nation building package to strengthen the national economy and create jobs.

The University of Newcastle and Hunter Institute of TAFE also stand to benefit from the \$1.6 billion for infrastructure at universities and TAFEs announced as part of the package.

"I'm proud to be part of a nation building Government that acts decisively during these difficult global economic times by investing in our economic and social infrastructure."

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