



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

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**Media Release**

## **Nation Building and Jobs Plan to benefit Newcastle**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson has welcomed today's announcement of a \$42 billion stimulation package, saying Newcastle is set to see some significant benefits from the funding.

"These are difficult financial times for the nation and for Newcastle. This package is designed to stimulate growth, to protect jobs, and to position our country and our city for the future," Ms Grierson said.

"I was pleased to learn today that the Reserve Bank had elected to cut interest rates. This will provide some welcome respite for families, whilst today's funding announcement will provide some welcome stimulation for our local economy."

"The *Building the Education Revolution* component of this package is a \$14.7 billion funding injection - the single biggest school modernisation investment in the history of Australia."

"In Newcastle alone, this will mean that each of our 52 Newcastle Primary Schools will receive funding for the construction of large-scale building upgrades, such as 21<sup>st</sup> century libraries or student halls."

"All of our 72 schools (primary and secondary) will receive up to \$200,000 each for maintenance and building works, as part of the Renewing Australia's Schools component of the stimulation package. This component alone will provide up to \$14.4 million for local schools"

"Our schools and our students will play an essential role in pulling us out of this economic downturn and this package will position our students for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

"The package also provides investment in energy efficiency measures including funding for free ceiling insulation in 2.7 million Australian homes. The Solar Hot Water Rebate will be increased from \$1000 to \$1600."

"There will also be a variety of direct benefits for Newcastle families including tax breaks for those earning under \$100,000 and support for single-income families or families with school aged children."

"During these difficult economic times it is important that we pull together as a community. I encourage all Novocastrians to continue their support for local businesses."

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