



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**BOEING DISPUTE: WORKERS' CHOICE MUST BE RESPECTED**

Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, today called on Boeing Australia to take a considered approach to the industrial dispute at its Williamstown maintenance plant.

"There is a lot at stake in this dispute for Boeing, for workers and their families, and for the region as a whole," Ms Grierson said.

"The Hunter region has a lot to offer Boeing. Our University and TAFE institutes turn out highly qualified engineers, while the RAAF base obviously offers great synergies with the industry."

"The region has invested heavily in the aerospace and defence industries, and employers and unions have a long history of working cooperatively on projects in these areas. The success of the Joint Strike Fighter project depends on these good relationships continuing."

"The mantra of the Federal Government's new industrial relations world is 'choice', so the Boeing workers should be entitled to choose an enterprise bargaining agreement."

"The majority of aircraft mechanical engineers on the site have indicated that they want to negotiate a collective work agreement. All sides should now cooperate to resolve this dispute by entering negotiations on a collective agreement."

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