



**SHARON GRIERSON MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEWCASTLE**

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**PORT OF NEWCASTLE:
BEST PRACTICE DESPITE GOVERNMENT'S NEGLECT**

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today expressed deep reservations about the Federal Government's proposal to take over the regulation of the city's port infrastructure.

"In a complex operation like a port, local solutions are always going to work better than big-stick regulation handed down from Canberra," Ms Grierson said. "But the Government hasn't even consulted with the States on this issue, let alone the local community."

"The Newcastle Port Corporation, Port Waratah Coal Services and all local port users have a long-standing, formalised planning and information sharing approach that works."

"Minister Anderson is right to point out that the coal-loading bottleneck at Newcastle's port has eased. However, he forgets that it was the proactive local users and local management who found an acceptable market solution to meeting the increase coal export demand."

"He also forgets that it has been the Government's neglect of the nation's infrastructure over the past nine years that caused the bottlenecks in the first place."

"Labor's plan for a national infrastructure council, *Infrastructure Australia*, would see real investment and real leadership from the federal level. It would see real consultation between all levels of government and industry. And it would finally see local knowledge harnessed in a coordinated approach to unlocking investment in the national infrastructure our economy needs to keep growing."

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