



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



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**ASIC CLOSURE:
DOING BUSINESS IN OUR REGION JUST GOT TOUGHER**

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said today that the closure of the Newcastle Service Centre of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) would make doing business in the Hunter even more difficult.

ASIC confirmed this week that after the Service Centre fully closes there will be no facility in the region to lodge new company registrations or change of business ownership details, to lodge payments of charges, or to have telephone inquiries answered locally.

"Newcastle is the sixth largest city in Australia," Ms Grierson said. "We want our regional economy to grow - not have services ripped away."

"The Federal Government has the power to direct ASIC to keep its Newcastle Service Centre open. It must do so immediately."

"Local businesses have been advised to use the internet as a replacement for the personal service previously provided by the Newcastle Service Centre."

"There are many things you simply cannot do online. There are around 175 forms listed on the ASIC website that businesses may need to lodge - but only around 30 of these can be lodged online."

"Hunter businesses will either have to go to Sydney, or post their documents to Victoria. Many businesses are concerned that putting these important documents and payments in the post could lead to delays and late lodgement fees."

"Our region deserves better than this."

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