



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle



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UNIVERSITY RESTRUCTURE
COST OF GETTING IT WRONG FELT ALL OVER THE REGION

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said today that getting the University of Newcastle restructure wrong had the potential to seriously damage the Hunter region.

Making a statement to Parliament following the release of the University of Newcastle change management plan, Ms Grierson said the Government must assist the region to absorb the economic and human loss.

"The loss of 439 university jobs, with a further 150 flow-on job losses represents an economic cost to our region of over \$100 million per year."

"Shedding 439 jobs quickly may be preferred by management, but it intensifies the shock to our region."

"Withdrawing \$100m from our economy in one year will have a significant impact."

"The Hunter's labour market is a lot thinner than those of the larger cities - it is estimated that for the Lower Hunter to achieve the same job-to-population ratio as Sydney we would have to create 73,000 additional jobs immediately."

"The average total income for wage and salary earners in the region is only approximately \$43,000 per year, and 10% of the population live below the poverty line."

"Today is a National Day of Action against the Government's assault on university funding. The combined surplus of all universities in NSW plummeted from \$168m to \$49m from 2003 to 2004, with 8 out of 10 universities recording a worse position. But Newcastle University faces the biggest deficit of all."

"The Government must accept that it has a role to play in assisting our university and our region."

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