



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**27 July 2005**

## **RAINBOW WARRIOR HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNMENT'S HAPHAZARD PORT SECURITY APPROACH**

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said today that the protest by Greenpeace activists at Newcastle Port highlights the Federal Government's haphazard approach to port security.

"The action taken by Greenpeace was not a security threat and clearly the Newcastle Port Corporation and State police have responded swiftly and correctly to maintain port operations. However, that Greenpeace can use their ship to attempt to close our port clearly begs the question: what if it was someone else with more sinister motives?"

"Port security is an issue of national importance, but the Federal Government has consistently failed to implement a comprehensive protection regime. The Government legislated for a national port security regime in 2003, but legislation to improve this still sits before the parliament in 2005."

"Currently around eight different federal agencies have some responsibility for port security but there remains significant concern that no one is really in charge. We need Labor's Department of Homeland Security with its own dedicated Minister to better coordinate these agencies and work closely with the states and port operators."

"Each year around 1,300 overseas ships arrive in Newcastle Port, and for over 75% of these, Newcastle is the first port of call. We need proper security checks on foreign flagged vessels arriving at our ports, to ensure they identify their crew and cargo accurately 48 hours before arrival so the required checks can be carried out."

"The current legislative regime requires Newcastle Port and other ports to submit their own security plans to the new Office of Transport Security, but more resources must be provided by the Federal Government to assist in implementing, coordinating and improving these plans."

"The Government must take a more proactive approach, rather than its current haphazard port security regime."

**More information: Sharon Grierson, 4926 1555**

**Canberra**  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
Ph: 02 6277 4221  
Fax: 02 6277 8461



**Newcastle**  
427 Hunter Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300  
Ph: 02 4926 1555  
Fax: 02 4926 1895  
[www.sharongrierson.com](http://www.sharongrierson.com)