



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Release**  
**26 January 2006**

**BIG NEWCASTLE WELCOME FOR QUEEN'S BATON RELAY**

Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today called on Novocastrians to extend a big welcome to the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay when it passes through Newcastle on Friday and Saturday this week.

"I encourage everyone to come out to share the spirit of the Games, and to cheer on our community champions carrying the Baton," Ms Grierson said.

16 Novocastrians will have the honour of the carrying the Baton on its journey through our city.

"This relay will bring many of our unsung heroes in sport and the community sector into the limelight, and I congratulate the runners from Newcastle who have been given this honour. It will be great to see Novocastrians cheering on the Baton as it moves through our beautiful city."

Novocastrians will carry the Baton from Merewether to Foreshore Park on Friday afternoon, and from Harbour Square to Mayfield on Saturday morning. From there, the Baton will continue its 21,000km journey around Australia on its way to Melbourne for the 15 March Opening Ceremony.

This is part of a year-long journey which has seen the Baton pass through all 53 nations and 18 territories of the Commonwealth - travelling over 180,000km and being carried by 50,000 people. In Australia alone, more than 500 communities and 3,500 runners will be involved.

"It's great to see Newcastle playing its part in this fantastic sporting and cultural celebration, showcasing the beauty of our city and the spirit of its people to Australia and the world."

"I urge all Novocastrians to join in the celebrations at Foreshore Park to welcome the Baton."

**Ms Grierson will be among the speakers at an official ceremony at 5pm Friday at Foreshore Park to welcome the Baton to Newcastle.**

**For more information contact Sharon Grierson on 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)