



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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HOWARD GOVERNMENT SHOULD GET THE BALL ROLLING ON STADIUM

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson today called in Parliament for the Howard Government to get the ball rolling on the next phase of EnergyAustralia Stadium's upgrade, so that Newcastle did not miss out on hosting matches in any Australian World Cup bid.

"The case has been made - a Newcastle University study found that economic activity centring on the upgraded stadium would exceed \$130 million," Ms Grierson told Parliament.

"This case was presented to the Howard Government in 2002. We've been waiting ever since for this investment in our economy."

"The Howard Government just won't listen to the united voice of our region."

"It won't listen to the roar from the 26,000 people who were at the sold-out EnergyAustralia Stadium last Friday, and the 6,000 more who would have been there if the upgrade had been completed. And it won't listen to the 9,621 people from all over our region whose petitions I have presented to Parliament over the past two years."

The Minister for Sport recently responded that sporting stadiums are not a federal responsibility.

"Except that John Howard's team, St George, Jackie Kelly's team, Penrith, and Peter Costello's team, Cronulla, all got federal funding for their stadiums. It really is sneaky for the Howard Government to wash its hands of EnergyAustralia Stadium."

"Particularly when we now see plans for an Australian bid for the 2018 Soccer World Cup. Newcastle, the nation's sixth largest city, must not be left out of this event."

"To be ready for 2018, we need to start now. The Howard Government should get the ball rolling with a commitment of federal funding for this project."

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