

# Senator Kim Carr

## Labor Senator for Victoria

*Shadow Minister for Industry, Innovation, Science & Research*

## Sharon Grierson

Federal Member for Newcastle



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## Labor boosts campaign to save Newcastle Jobs

Pressure continues to mount on the Howard Government today over the awarding of an \$18 million Airservices Australia contract for emergency response vehicles to an overseas company - sending Australian jobs offshore.

"I have been working hard to reverse the Howard Government's misguided decision to award the emergency rescue vehicles for Australian airports contract to an Austrian company over Newcastle's Varley Engineering", Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, said.

"Newcastle will lose 60 direct jobs, up to 180 indirect jobs and 15 new apprenticeships because of the Howard Government's ongoing failure to deliver neither a manufacturing policy nor a comprehensive government purchasing policy.

"Labor also has serious concerns about the probity of the tender process and will continue to ask questions to get to the bottom of this mess.

"I am very pleased that Senator Kim Carr, Labor's Shadow Minister for Industry, has taken up this critical Newcastle issue. His speech in the Senate today confirms the failures of this Government", Sharon Grierson said.

Kim Carr, Shadow Minister for Industry said:

"The Howard Government does not have a government purchasing policy that encourages the purchase of Australian goods and services. Everyone knows that buying Australian supports Australian businesses and creates jobs.

"They also don't take into consideration the implications of their purchasing decisions on regional cities and towns like Newcastle.

"The Howard Government has slashed funding to programs that assist Australian businesses to access the \$75 billion spent each year by Australian governments on goods and services. This is not good enough.

"Labor will implement a comprehensive government purchasing policy that encourages government to buy Australian and creates jobs for future generations", Senator Carr said.

**NB Hansard proofs of Senator Carr's speech in the Senate today are attached – 7 pages.**