

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 promotes manufacturing in Newcastle

Encouraging enterprise, exports, growth and jobs

Manufacturing has always been the backbone of the Hunter Region economy. However, the industry has faced challenges as manufacturing shifts towards smaller companies producing hi-tech products.

A Latham Labor Government will establish a 10-year National Manufacturing Strategy to assist the transition to high-tech manufacturing. Senator Carr will use his Newcastle visit to discuss with local industry leaders concrete policy directions that will help both industry and government.

Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson, said:

“Manufacturing employs nearly 26 000 people in the Hunter Region with an annual turnover approaching \$6 billion. Unlike the Howard government, Labor recognises the importance of the manufacturing sector to the economy of Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

“Local networks like HunterNet and HEDC’s manufacturing task force have already shown the way forward, but Government has a role to increase the development and export of value-added products and increase investment in research and development. It is important that Newcastle’s experiences inform Labor policy and I will continue to work with local industry to make sure our interests are represented.

“Labor will encourage modernisation, access to venture capital and foreign direct investment and assist development of environmentally sustainable manufacturing processes”, said Ms Grierson.

Senator Carr said: “Labor’s Australian Manufacturing Council will work with State and Territory Governments to ensure that manufacturing businesses can access the skills and resources needed to expand into global markets, and to continue to develop new technologies.

“Labor’s Manufacturing Council will be an ongoing forum to examine issues facing the manufacturing industry. The sector needs a long term strategy and concrete actions to improve its productivity and overall competitiveness.

“This is vital for jobs, exports and productivity in Newcastle. A Latham Labor Government will promote manufacturing as part of a drive to boost productivity and create high-skill, high-wage jobs.”