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Newcastle Puts Bob Baldwin and John Howard On Report

John Howard and Bob Baldwin deserve to be put on report by the voters of Newcastle and the Hunter Region.

The people of Newcastle and the Hunter have been asking the Howard government for funds to upgrade our sports stadium for the last 5 years, but John Howard's team hasn't been playing the game by the rules.

At first the Howard government ducked and weaved, passing the ball to the State government for the first play. But when the Labor Carr government scored the first try contributing over \$30 million to the stadium upgrade, the Howard team spat the dummy, walked off the field, not wanting to play the "funding football stadium" game anymore.

But John Howard forgets his government knew how to play the game in Gosford, Canberra and now Penrith. Such foul play deserves to be penalised by the voters of Newcastle and the Hunter region.

As the Member for Newcastle I've always argued that our stadium is not just about football, but a way to benefit the region through international sport-related tourism on a large economic and employment scale.

Novocastrians remember the missed opportunities for our region from the Rugby World Cup. Because our football stadium was not up to international standard, Newcastle couldn't host a single match, losing out on a multi million dollar dividend.

I presented this economic research along with petitions signed by almost 10,000 people from throughout the region to Parliament last December. The response from Bob Baldwin and John Howard was deafening.

In October 2002 a non-partisan delegation of Lord Mayor John Tate, Ted Atchison, Michael Hill and Newcastle Knights captain Andrew Johns - went to Canberra to put the case for a federal contribution to the stadium upgrade, but again John Howard was off the field, missing in action.

Bob Baldwin and the Howard government keep moving the goal posts to ensure there is no level playing field for Newcastle and the Hunter region.

Bob Baldwin's latest move to entice the fans to vote Liberal to score a funding goal deserves a full term suspension in the sin-bin. You're off Bob!

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