



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

23 February 2005

CONGRATULATIONS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD WINNERS

Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle, will today present the Newcastle region's winners with their National Local Government Awards.

The commendation awards will be presented to Film Hunter (Hunter Councils) for its work in developing the Hunter's film and television industry and Newcastle City Council for its Environment Management Plan 2003.

"These awards are recognition for innovative programs from local governments in our region," Ms Grierson said. "Local government is all about finding better ways of delivering services, and these two projects certainly achieve that goal."

Film Hunter has helped facilitate productions in the local area, build links between the local industry and national players, and disseminate information about film and television production in the region.

Newcastle City Council's Environment Management Plan is an example of a locally-focussed project contributing to the sustainable future of our region and our nation.

"I would like to congratulate all the dedicated officers working on these projects who have made them such a success," Ms Grierson said. "Innovative design and implementation of local government services is essential for councils faced with difficult problems and scarce resources."

It has been noted that a 2003 Parliamentary Committee inquiry into local government recommended an intergovernmental agreement on the roles and responsibilities of local governments, and to determine what funding sources are needed to meet those responsibilities.

"Adequate resourcing and reform are vital for the future of local government service delivery, and we await the Government's response to the Committee's recommendations."

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