

Health

FIGHTING FOR A MUCH DESERVED HOSPITAL

Following my election in 2007 I called a public meeting on the lack of health facilities in south western Lake Macquarie. The crowd of 300 unanimously endorsed a proposal for a local hospital or health facility. The Southlake Integrated Health Care Committee was established and after two years of research it proposed a facility to include a wide range of health care services, a sub acute hospital facility and a day surgery unit. Committee chairman John Quinlan and I presented the report to the Minister for Health in January last year.

We have put a new hospital for south western Lake Macquarie on the government agenda. I will continue to work with the community to deliver this much-needed facility.

Mines

THE COMMUNITY MUST BE HEARD

I support traditional underground mining where there is no conflict with more important land uses. Because of their huge potential impacts I have opposed and helped defeat three unpopular mines in this electorate:

- In 2006 I joined the community's campaign against the Awaba Open Cut. The Minister for Planning banned open cut mining in this area just hours after I announced my candidacy for the 2007 election.
- The Olstan Auger Mine would have had all the impacts of an open cut mine and it caused community outrage. I repeatedly raised the matter in Parliament and following intense community opposition the project was withdrawn.
- The Wallarah 2 longwall coalmine would have undermined the water catchment of the Yarralong and Dooralong valleys and was a serious threat to the Central Coast's water supply. I was pleased to assist the successful community campaign against the proposal.

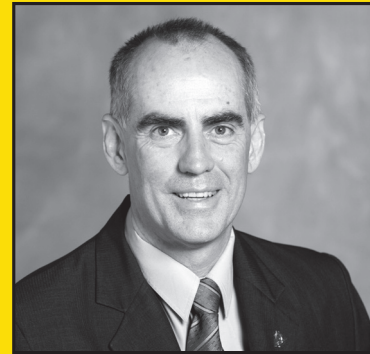
I support traditional underground mining, but I will oppose mines that would impact on communities and our unique local environment.

"As an Independent member I am beholden only to my electorate, the people of New South Wales and my conscience"

Greg Piper, NSW Parliament 24 September 2008

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VOTE 1



GREG PIPER

Your **INDEPENDENT**
FOR LAKE MACQUARIE

Dear Resident

Since being elected as your Independent Member for Lake Macquarie in 2007 I have worked hard to get the best for this area.

My team and I are proud of our results, with more police, more public housing, improved main roads, more commuter parking and over \$1.1 million for community projects. As you will read in this leaflet, I have plans for the future and believe that I am well placed to work with a new government to deliver on these plans.

Greg Piper MP

Essential Services

POWER, WATER AND GARBAGE COSTS

Electricity: Households are reeling from an average increase of \$126 this year and the government has approved increases of \$320 over the next two years. After Labor's power privatisation, costs are expected to go higher.

Water: Last year water rates increased by an average of \$131 and the government has already approved further increases. Pensioners did poorly, receiving a maximum of \$16 increase in their rebate, although many in retirement villages received nothing.

Waste: The government's waste levy reaps the state \$250 million each year, but only around \$37 million is returned to councils for local environmental projects. Increases already planned for the next 4 years will add a further \$250 to your annual costs.

I have opposed privatisation and increased costs for basic services. In the coming term I will work with the new government to immediately address these inequities.

Planning and Environment

YOUR PLANNING RIGHTS EXTINGUISHED

People's right of genuine input into planning decisions in their local community has been crushed by Labor's infamous "Part 3A" and other changes. Too many developments have been approved with no meaningful accountability to the community in any direct way.

Part 3A must be abolished and a new method found to handle genuine state significant matters such as mines, power stations and pipelines. Smaller developments such as subdivisions, shopping centres, commercial and tourist developments should be decided by local councils elected by their communities.

I will work with the new government for a fair and workable replacement of Labor's notorious "Part 3A" planning laws and the return of decision-making to local communities.

Police

IMPROVEMENTS, BUT STILL GROSSLY UNDERSTAFFED

In 2007 I met with the Police Minister and pointed out the appalling police to resident ratio in Lake Macquarie compared to his own electorate. Within days an additional 23 officers were announced. After I met last year with the new Police Minister and the overworked staff at Toronto Police Station, Lake Macquarie received more new staff and promises of station upgrades.

We have secured more police and I intend to keep the pressure on until Lake Macquarie has its fair quota of officers.

Main Roads (ROUTE 133 MORISSET TO BOOLAROO)

THERE HAVE BEEN IMPROVEMENTS, BUT WE NEED MORE

There have been a number of improvements to our main road and I was pleased to work with the local community and Greg Combet, Member for Charlton, to have the dangerous Dorrington Road intersection at Rathmines fixed.

Significant improvements have been won and I will keep fighting for widening of Cary Street in Toronto, improved safety at Toronto Public School and other important work.

Public Transport

NEW SERVICES FOR MAJOR GROWTH CENTRES

The Lake Macquarie Transport Interchange at Glendale is essential for successful public transport in this region and I have lobbied hard for it.

I strongly support an autonomous regional body to coordinate and fund public transport in the Lower Hunter.

A new transport interchange and regional autonomy will be the key to developing our public transport and I will continue to pursue them vigorously.