



# Greg Piper MP

## Member for Lake Macquarie



### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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#### **New Police Welcome, But More Needed**

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today welcomed the news that Lake Macquarie will gain 18 of the state's 310 new police officers.

"There are 87 Local Area Commands across NSW, so Lake Macquarie has scored well and the new allocation will ease this area's chronic level of understaffing," Mr Piper said. "I've worked hard to get a better deal for Lake Macquarie and things are finally improving."

"However, we will still have well below the State average police to population ratio," Mr Piper added. "These new officers are most welcome, but Lake Macquarie will still be grossly understaffed."

According to Mr Piper, the Parsons review of police resourcing should provide a further increase when it is implemented in the near future. "My submission to the Parsons review made it clear how under-resourced our local police are," Mr Piper added.

Mr Piper has a motion listed for debate in the Legislative Assembly noting that the police-to-population ratio is approximately half of the State average and calling on the Minister for Police to ensure equitable provision of police staffing and resources for Lake Macquarie. (Notice given 11 May 2011)

"The population served by the Lake Macquarie Local Area Command is approximately two and a half times the State average and the job is made more difficult by the way the population is spread around the lake," Mr Piper added.

Mr Piper's submission to the Parsons review, including a time line of his efforts to increase police numbers, can be found on his website [www.gregpiper1.com](http://www.gregpiper1.com)

**Media Contacts: Greg Piper 0407 770837**  
**Peter Morris 0409 659649**

**Electorate Office 4959 3200**  
**[www.gregpiper1.com](http://www.gregpiper1.com)**