



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



MEDIA RELEASE

2 April 2009

GREG PIPER SUPPORTS “STOP THE CELL-OFF” RALLY

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today stated his support for the Macquarie Street rally against privatisation of prisons in NSW.

According to Mr Piper, the rally outside Parliament House today was one of the largest and most vocal ever.

“I support the Public Service Association in its ‘Stop the Cell-Off’ campaign,” Mr Piper said. “When courts impose custodial sentences the Government has a duty to both the community and prisoners to focus on rehabilitation. Turning imprisonment into a commercial operation bypasses this.”

“The introduction of Prisons-for-Profits would show inmates and their families that the Government has less interest in their welfare than the cost of running prisons.”

“The Corrective Services Commissioner’s evidence in the Upper House inquiry on privatisation shows a history of poor management, but it does not justify the Government turning its back on those it has imprisoned.”

“It’s right that the Government recognises the need to improve prison management, but it shouldn’t pass the responsibility to a private operator with a profit motive.”