



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

6 March 2008

Anti-Privatisation Petition Tabled in Parliament

Mr Greg Piper, the Independent Member for Lake Macquarie today lodged a petition of 5,000 signatures against the privatisation of power in New South Wales.

Mr Piper said that 5,000 is a lot of people to sign a petition on power, when it has been running for a relatively short time. Petitions are still pouring into his Toronto electorate office from around the State.

Mr Piper was one of the first state politicians to speak out publicly against privatisation and the process by which it has been driven.

"This is an issue about process, about the lack of consultation, about people being trodden on by Mr Costa" he said.

"It is an issue about environment, about the State abrogating its responsibilities to clean up the existing industry and to fund new technologies for power generation."

"It is an issue about a total lack of hard evidence from the government that privatisation is actually necessary to meet base load requirements", Mr Piper said today."

Speaking in Parliament today, Mr Piper said that \$7 billion of the sale proceeds invested at safe rate of 6% would yield \$80 million dollars less per year than current dividends from generators.

"The proposed infrastructure fund will depreciate with inflation and capital expenditure and Mr Costa and Mr lemma have not yet explained how the fund could be sustainable" Mr Piper said.

"The people won't forget this issue in 2011 and although they probably can't rely on the Liberal Party for any contrasting policy, local ALP politicians will surely be punished for Mr Costa and the Premier's recalcitrance", Mr Piper concluded.