



Greg Piper MP

Member for Lake Macquarie



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BUDGET MISDIRECTION

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, has criticised today's budget for its election focus concentrating on Sydney and the government's marginal electorates.

"While nine of the electorate's 28 public schools have been directly targeted for improvement, most of the school funding has already been announced or is funded through the Rudd government's Building the Education Revolution scheme" Mr Piper said. "The same applies to housing, with most funding coming from the Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan."

"I am pleased that \$500,000 has been allocated to plan road improvements between Toronto and Booragul, but the problems along Main Road 217 desperately need action - not just planning" Mr Piper said.

"There has been a regional approach to funding health services, with no projects targeting Lake Macquarie."

"Lake Macquarie residents will benefit from some items outside the electorate, in particular the new Police headquarters at Glendale" Mr Piper said. "To a large extent, people from western Lake Macquarie are forced to travel out of the area to access the services they need."

"This continues the Labor tradition of ignoring services such as health and education in the Lake Macquarie electorate."

"This budget makes a very modest allocation of funds to Lake Macquarie as the government is trying desperately to stem the electoral haemorrhage in other seats."

The Treasurer also announced the continuation of the Community Building Partnership, with Lake Macquarie to receive \$400,000.

"There were a lot of worthy applications for last year's funding, so I'm looking forward to distributing this year's money to deserving groups," Mr Piper said.