



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

7 November 2008

MINI-BUDGET A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today criticised the Government spin that the mini-budget is largely the result of the global financial crisis.

According to Mr Piper, the Treasurer's budget speech placed the blame on external factors, such as the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the United States.

"Labor has been at the controls of NSW for over thirteen years and the problems we face have clearly been coming for some time. This Mini-Budget is the hard proof that the Government has for some time been lying about the position of the state economy. The former Treasurer had stated that the 2008-09 budget didn't depend on privatisation of the electricity industry," said Mr Piper. "It's obvious now that the budget was based on privatisation and has fallen like a house of cards."

"We do face a challenge and tough decisions do need to be made, but as the Government blame everyone and everything other than themselves for our economic woes, then we are unlikely to get the leadership we need."

"As well as sacrificing the power retailers to an uncertain market the government is considering selling off NSW Lotteries," Mr Piper said. "It's a short-sighted plan that would see long term profits sold-off for a short term gain."

"It will hardly provide comfort to the people hurt by this budget that the government is going to cut back its advertising bill to \$93m."