



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

5 March 2009

Greg Piper Asks Government to Improve Police Stations

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, today told Parliament that outdated and inadequate police stations need to be improved to provide safe and productive workplaces that meet the needs of police officers and a growing population.

Mr Piper called for urgent action to improve Toronto Police Station, which operates from a cluster of old and unsuitable buildings that don't provide adequate space and facilities.

"Toronto Police Station has cramped and uncomfortable working conditions and no facilities for the public," Mr Piper told Parliament. "This is a third-world quality police station in an area that the NSW Government has targeted for the largest part of projected population growth under the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy."

According to Mr Piper, the 2008-9 Budget included \$250,000 for commencement of a new \$17 million Local Area Command Police Station at Glendale.

"While this is welcome, there is a need to make sure other stations are at a reasonable standard," said Mr Piper. "The Lake Macquarie Local Area Command also services the electorates of Swansea, Charlestown, Wallsend and Cessnock. It is physically large, difficult to service, and has a relatively low number of police for the population. The low standard of a number of Police Stations just makes the job for our police more difficult."

Mr Piper welcomed the support of the Opposition and other Independent members, however the Government used its numbers to defeat the motion.