



Greg Piper, MP
Member for Lake Macquarie



Media Release

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GREG PIPER SAYS "KEEP IT LOCAL"

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, spoke out today in support of the "Keep it Local" campaign run by the Local Government and Shires Association.

As Mayor of Lake Macquarie he heads a well-run council. As Member for Lake Macquarie he knows the NSW Government is pushing things too far.

Mr Piper agrees with this week's report by the Productivity Commission saying the NSW Government is starving communities of funds for essential services and infrastructure.

The report 'Assessing Local Government Revenue Raising Capacity' found the NSW Government has more control over councils than any other in the country – including their ability to raise revenue for long-term infrastructure that communities need. The report also confirms the critical role local government plays in providing essential infrastructure and services for local communities.

"This report shows that the NSW State Government has more control over revenue raising than any other state government in the country," said Mr Piper.

"The report confirms what councils across the state have been saying," said Mr Piper. "Councils have more responsibility but are starved of funds."

Under reforms of the NSW Planning system, councils will lose their control over development applications to Sydney and to private operators.

"Government power grabs are concentrating power in Sydney and preventing local decisions," said Mr Piper. "There's more accountability and transparency if decisions are under the control of locally elected people - not the development industry."

"The reforms contain a lot of minor changes that are worth supporting, but the undermining of councils' roles in the community must be stopped."