



**Greg Piper, MP**  
**Member for Lake Macquarie**



*Media Release*

20 July 2007

**LOCAL POLLIE TRIES ON TORONTO'S SMALL BUSINESS SHOES**

Small businesses across New South Wales will once again be putting their local politicians to work as part of the NSW Business Chamber annual *Pollies for Small Business* program, to be held from Monday 23 July to Saturday 28 July 2007.

Greg Piper, Member for Lake Macquarie, will be visiting three local businesses on Wednesday 25 July 2007.

In keeping with this year's theme of "Walk a Mile in Your Shoes" he will be serving in a health food shop, helping in a home loans office and then trying his hand at a legal office. He will be listening to business owners about their challenges and problems.

The NSW Business Chamber *Pollies for Small Business* program provides local MPs with the opportunity to experience first hand what its like to run a small business.

Greg Piper said

"Small business plays a key role in providing jobs in Lake Macquarie and it is important that decision-makers understand the challenges they face."

President of the Toronto Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Julie Levy, said

"This program is vital in ensuring politicians have a clearer understanding of what it is really like to be a small business owner."

NSW Business Chamber CEO, Kevin MacDonald, said that with all the attention given to big picture issues like climate change, occupational, health & safety and interest rates by our politicians, this program is a fantastic opportunity for politicians to see first hand how these issues are actually affecting small businesses.

"This is a great program and our chambers and businesses throughout NSW have found it very useful in helping businesspeople and MPs understand each other better."

"I anticipate this year many politicians and businesses will chat about climate change and particularly about how it will impact such things as electricity and water bills and the creation of a carbon trading scheme.

The NSW Business Chamber *Pollies for Small Business* program is run in cooperation with the local Chamber of Commerce network.