



## **Greg Piper MP**

### **Member for Lake Macquarie**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

27 August 2009

### **Ian Kiernan and Greg Piper Launch “Turning Toronto Green”**

Ian Kiernan, chairman of Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World, joined Greg Piper today in launching a project aimed at reducing the use of disposable plastic bags in Toronto. The event at Toronto Town Square ran from 10:00am until midday, with Ian Kiernan and Greg Piper officially launching “**Turning Toronto Green**” at 11:00.

Mr Kiernan and Mr Piper started the handout of 4,400 purpose-made “Turning Toronto Green” reusable bags that are being given to shoppers.

Coles Toronto also provided reusable bags through their checkouts at no cost between 11:00am and 1:00pm, while Woolworths handed out bags to the crowd.

The launch included presentation of awards to prize-winners in a poster competition involving local schools.

From 10:00am there were displays on a range of environmental themes, with music provided by Fennell Bay Public School Choir and the Toronto Public School band ‘Marimba’.

The campaign against plastic bags was first suggested by Carey Bay resident Henry Wellsmore and became a joint project of Greg Piper and the Toronto Tidy Towns Committee.

Greg Piper thanked Henry Wellsmore and the local businesses who sponsored the new reusable bags.

“It was great to have so many school pupils involved today,” Mr Piper said. “They will be responsible for our environment in the future and in the meantime they will be reminding their parents about reusable shopping bags.”

Ian Kiernan has a long history of involvement with Lake Macquarie. “It’s great to see the improvement in the lake,” he said. “It’s a great reward for everyone involved.”

According to Mr Kiernan, Australia produces more than 1.3 million tonnes of plastic every year – more than 71kg for every person.

“For the fifteenth consecutive year, plastics made up the majority of rubbish collected on Clean Up Australia Day 2009,” he added.