

clean coal

One of the fundamental priorities of the Rudd Labor Government is to address climate change. This will be especially important in the Hunter Region and the Charlton electorate given our dependence on the coal industry.



The Government is spending \$2.3 billion dollars to tackle climate change, including a \$500 million Clean Coal Fund.

This will enable investment in research and development to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

There are eight coalmines in Charlton and one of the State's largest electricity generators, Eraring Power Station, which together employ in excess of 2000 workers.

Climate change has created uncertainty for the future of these industries. The Rudd Government's Climate Change policies will reduce this uncertainty and provide a more positive future for workers.

Nathan Robinson and Dylan Ball - GreenCorps participants



Greg recently visited North Creek in Warners Bay to witness first hand the efforts being made to conserve, preserve and restore part of Australia's natural heritage as part of the GreenCorps Program. This Rudd Government initiative is being delivered locally by Hunter Workways and aims to provide high quality environmental outcomes as well as career and education opportunities for young Australians.

Portfolio News

Following the election of Kevin Rudd last year Greg was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement. This involves responsibility for the purchasing and maintenance of all equipment for the Australian Defence Force.

"With a budget of almost \$10 billion per year it is a large responsibility, and I am extremely proud to have this opportunity to support the men and women of our defence force," said Greg when appointed to the role.



Morisset PCYC Centre on the Way

Greg has delivered \$118,000 to upgrade facilities and provide sporting equipment for the Morisset PCYC Outreach Centre. The funding, which was allocated in the 2008-09 budget, will go towards the purchase of sports netting, sporting equipment, office equipment and refurbishment of the Centre.

Early Learning and Childcare Centres

The Rudd Labor Government has committed to establishing up to 260 additional Early Learning and Child Care Centres across Australia by 2014. Greg will be lobbying for a centre to be located in the electorate and working with the Office of Early Childhood Education and Child Care to identify possible locations.

Catalina Museum – Rathmines

The former RAAF base at Rathmines was the home base for the Catalinas during World War II. The Catalinas played a key role in major battles such as the Coral Sea, Bismarck Sea and Midway. Greg is supporting the Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Trust in their efforts to raise funds to build a replica museum/hangar to house a Catalina aircraft. This aircraft has already been purchased and is currently waiting to be ferried from Portugal.



Greg Combet AM MP Federal Member for Charlton



The Charlton News

JULY 2008

Greg Combet Delivers Election Commitments

Welcome to my first community newsletter as the Federal Member for Charlton. Since my election last year I have been focusing on delivering the commitments that I made as the Labor candidate during the election campaign.

This first edition of the Charlton News provides an update on the implementation of these election commitments - including information about the GP Super Clinic, improvements to the Dorrington and Wangi Road intersection, and the delivery of a youth outreach program at Morisset. The funding to implement each of these initiatives was allocated in the Federal Budget announced in May.

I have also made sure that local high schools were in the best position to benefit from the Rudd Labor Government's commitment to provide access to computers for all students in years 9 to 12. As a result 12 schools within the electorate have been prioritised and are to be provided with 1,600 new computers in coming months.

Within the Government I have been appointed as the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Procurement. This responsibility involves the purchasing and maintenance of all Australian Defence Force equipment including combat aircraft, naval ships and army materiel. The budget for this responsibility is approximately \$10 billion per year.

I would like to thank once again all of the voters in the electorate of Charlton for supporting me in last year's election, and assure everyone of my commitment to work hard on behalf of the community.

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if we can be of assistance.

Greg Combet



Big Boost for Seniors & Carers

The Rudd Labor Government has delivered important benefits for eligible seniors and carers:

- \$1,000 bonus payment for carers
- \$500 bonus payment for seniors
- Utilities Allowance up from \$107.20 to \$500 per year to be paid quarterly in March, June, September and December
- Telephone Allowance up from \$88 to \$132 a year for seniors with a home internet connection
- The Seniors Concession Allowance up from \$218 a year to \$500 a year for Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders paid quarterly

The Rudd Government recognises the financial pressures that seniors face, and has committed \$5.2 billion in additional funding for seniors, more than three times the amount pledged by the previous government in the 2007-08 budget.

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has promised to examine ways to deliver increased financial security to seniors and carers in the longer term and has established a comprehensive inquiry into the taxation and welfare system.

Greg Combet AM MP

Federal Member for Charlton

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Morisset Resident Awarded for Community Service

Well-known Morisset resident Les Norris has been awarded the Premier's Community Service Award for his long-standing service to a number of charities and organisations.

Nominated by Greg, who has witnessed first hand Les' dedication to the Morisset community, Les was pleasantly surprised to receive the award.

Les is a former police sergeant in the Morisset area, who has spent the last several years actively involved in community activities. He has been Secretary of the Morisset Showground Trust for many years, helping to organise monthly markets and the canteen at the showground.

Les is also involved in Parkinsons NSW and as a sufferer of Parkinsons Disease has worked tirelessly to raise awareness of this debilitating illness.



Dorrington Road Funding Delivered

Following a strong community campaign Greg has delivered the funding to upgrade safety at the intersection of Dorrington and Wangi Roads.

This is a dangerous intersection which has seen multiple accidents and injuries and, tragically, two fatalities in recent years.

The Rudd Labor Government is providing \$750,000 and the NSW Labor Government \$1.3 million for the roadworks.

The funding has come through the Black Spot Program which aims to reduce accidents and fatalities on dangerous roads by providing for improvements such as traffic signals and roundabouts.

The RTA will put a traffic solution proposal forward which will be open for public comment. This will ensure Charlton residents get the right solution to make this intersection safe.

GP Super Clinic for Charlton

The Rudd Labor Government's recent budget delivered the funding for a GP Super Clinic in the electorate. While there is a way to go it is likely that the Clinic will be located in either the Morisset or Toronto areas.

Labor's commitment to develop a \$2.5 million GP Super Clinic in the Charlton Electorate will help address the shortage of GPs, and provide important community health services.

With the doctor to patient ratio running at an unprecedented 1:2000 in the electorate, the GP Super Clinic is critical.

Once completed the GP Super Clinic is expected to include general practice services, community health nursing, a chronic disease management service and a range of allied health services.

Greg has been holding discussions with the key stakeholders, including Hunter New England Health, and is determined to ensure that the facility meets best practice standards.

He is looking forward to working in partnership with them to deliver the next generation of frontline primary health care services to the community.



Labor Delivers 1,600 Computers to Charlton Schools

In the first roll-out of Labor's commitment to provide all students in Years 9 to 12 with access to a computer, 12 secondary schools in Charlton are to receive 1,600 computers. This represents a massive boost in educational resources for students and teachers in the electorate.

The first schools to receive computers were identified on the basis that they had the highest need. These schools, and the number of computers each will receive are:

- Toronto High School 238
- St Paul's High School 217
- Morisset High School 213
- Glendale High School 189
- Callaghan College Wallsend Campus 185
- West Wallsend High School 157
- Cardiff High School 152
- Lake Macquarie High School 129
- Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College 89
- Charlton Christian College 30
- Christadelphian Heritage College 10
- The Newcastle Rudolf Steiner School 8



Investing in Charlton Schools

Five schools in Charlton have recently benefited from the Australian Government's Investing in our Schools Program.

- Boolaroo Public School \$120,000 for computers, library and sports equipment
- Eraring Public School \$20,000 for music and drama
- Lake Macquarie High School \$133,000 for music, library and computer upgrades
- Fern Valley Montessori School \$70,000 for playground equipment
- Glendale East Public School \$98,000 for sports, computers and library

Budget Delivers for Charlton Families

- Tax cuts - \$20 per week for families on a single income of \$40,000
- Education Tax Refund - up to \$375 per primary school child and up to \$750 per high school child to assist with education costs
- Child Care Rebate - up from 30% to 50% to help working parents
- Teen Dental Plan - a payment of \$150 per child per year for eligible families
- A Fairer Medicare Levy Surcharge - singles with incomes up to \$100,000 and families with incomes up to \$150,000 will no longer be subject to the surcharge if they do not have private health insurance, saving up to \$1000 per year for singles and \$1,500 for families
- Acting on the housing affordability crisis with a \$2.2 billion package covering First Home Saver Accounts, a National Rental Affordability Scheme and a new Housing Affordability Fund.

