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Media Release

Moving Australia Forward

A re-elected Gillard Government will move Australia forward and keep our economy strong, said Federal Member for Lindsay, David Bradbury.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that an election will be held on Saturday, 21 August.

Prime Minister Gillard will move Australia forward, while Tony Abbott wants to take Australia backwards by bringing back WorkChoices and cutting funding to schools and hospitals.

"I am committed to delivering better schools, a better health and hospitals system, a strong economy and a sustainable Australia," said Mr Bradbury.

"I am proud to be a part of a Government that acted quickly and decisively to protect Australia from the global financial crisis.

"We acted to stimulate the Australian economy and protect jobs. Thanks to the actions of the Government, Australia was the only major advanced economy to avoid recession, and we have the lowest unemployment and lowest net debt.

"I led the Keep Penrith Working campaign to encourage local businesses to tap into the stimulus package and support local jobs.

"We will also be returning the Budget to surplus by 2013, three years earlier than expected.

"For the last three years, I have been working hard to deliver for our community. I have secured half a billion dollars worth of investment in local schools, local infrastructure and our health and hospitals.

"I am proud to have delivered a \$96.4 million redevelopment of Nepean Hospital, where construction has just commenced. This will deliver two new 30-bed surgical wards, a new 12-bed intensive care unit with six additional beds, a new 8-bed dialysis unit, a new 64-bed mental health unit, a refurbishment to the Oral Health building to accommodate 32 chairs, and six new operating theatres.

"I am also proud of the unprecedented investment in our local schools, which has seen every school receive much-needed repairs and maintenance and new classrooms and libraries for every primary school.

"As the local Federal Member, I have been able to secure funding for two Trades Training Centres,

which will give students in 11 local schools the opportunity to learn a trade at high school, and funding for the roll-out of more than 3,000 computers to students in years 9 to 12.

"I am proud to have delivered investments in local community infrastructure projects, including funding for a commuter car park at Penrith railway station.

"But if Tony Abbott is elected, he will take our community backwards.

"Tony Abbott can't be trusted on WorkChoices. He says that it is dead and buried, but no one has been a greater supporter of WorkChoices throughout their time in public office. Tony Abbott has consistently said that he supports wage-destroying individual contracts and removing unfair dismissal protection for thousands of workers - the worst elements of WorkChoices.

"Tony Abbott as health minister ripped away \$1 billion from our health and hospital system, and now he is proposing to cut a further \$820 million if he is elected.

"Tony Abbott also wants to cut funding to our schools. Under Tony Abbott's plans, Trades Training Centres will be scrapped, and no more computers will be rolled out to high school students. Funding for new school buildings, like classrooms and libraries, is also under threat.

"I will continue to stand up for the interests of local residents and deliver for our community, while Tony Abbott wants to cut funding to schools and hospitals and send families backwards by reintroducing the worst elements of WorkChoices."