

David Bradbury MP



**KEEP
PENRITH
WORKING**

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Keep Penrith Working- Update 4

Budget News

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1. A Nation Building Budget to 'Keep Penrith Working'

Against the backdrop of the most serious global recession in 75 years, the Rudd Government has delivered a nation building Budget that is supporting Australian jobs and investing in the infrastructure we need for our future, including in our local community (see below).

The global recession has wiped more than \$200 billion of Government revenue. The Government will borrow responsibly to help cover this shortfall, having one of the lowest debt levels in the world, and has a clear plan for restoring the Budget to surplus as the economy recovers.

The Rudd Government acted early and decisively to stimulate the economy and support local jobs. This Budget invests in the nation building projects that will keep our country working, and position us to recover faster than most other advanced economies from the global recession.

For more information on the Budget, please go to www.budget.gov.au.

2. Massive Commonwealth Investment in Nepean Hospital and Nepean Clinical School

The Commonwealth Government will invest \$96.4 million in a massive redevelopment of Nepean Hospital, and \$17.2 million towards the construction of the Nepean Clinical School.

The historic redevelopment of Nepean Hospital, which will start this year and be completed by 2013, will include a new East Block, expansion of in-centre renal dialysis stations, expanded mental and dental health services and the Intensive Care Unit, and major equipment upgrades and refurbishments.

The Government is also providing \$17.2 million to the University of Sydney for a Nepean Clinical School to be built opposite the Nepean Hospital. Construction of the facility will begin this year and is expected to be completed by 2011. The Nepean Clinical School will help train and retain young doctors for Western Sydney, give local people access to cutting edge clinical trials, and offer bulk-billed specialist and GP services.

For more information on these announcements, please go to www.davidbradbury.com.au.

3. Other local announcements

The Penrith City and Western Sydney region will see significant investment in a range of infrastructure projects, including:

- More than \$2 million for capital works at Defence Establishment Orchard Hills
- \$40 million for a Climate Change and Energy Research centre at UWS Hawkesbury
- \$91 million for planning and environmental assessments for the Sydney West Metro
- \$17.6 for a UWS Clinical School at Blacktown Hospital

For more information on these announcements, please go to www.davidbradbury.com.au.

4. Small Business Tax Break Expanded- 50 per cent deduction

The Rudd Government has extended its Small Business and General Business Tax Break in the 2009-10 Budget.

Small businesses will now be able to claim a bonus tax deduction of 50 per cent — up from 30 per cent previously — of the cost of eligible assets acquired between 13 December 2008 and 31 December 2009, and installed by 31 December 2010.

The expanded Tax Break will be available to small businesses with a turnover of less than \$2 million, and they only need to invest a minimum of \$1,000 per asset in order to qualify.

All other businesses can continue to access the Tax Break at 30 per cent for eligible assets contracted for prior to 30 June 2009 and 10 per cent for eligible assets that they commit to investing in between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009.

For more information on the Small Business and General Business Tax Break, please go to <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Emerson/Pages/SMALLBUSINESSTAXBREAKBOOST.aspx>.

5. Paid Parental Leave

The Rudd Government will introduce a Paid Parental Leave scheme from 1 January 2011.

The Productivity Commission has found that a Paid Parental Leave scheme will boost workforce participation and provide support to women on low incomes who would not normally have access to post-natal parenting leave.

The scheme will pay the Federal minimum wage, which is currently \$543.78, for 18 weeks after the birth of a child for the primary carer.

To be eligible for the scheme, a parent in paid work:

- must have worked continuously with one or more employers for at least 10 of the 13 months before the expected date of birth or adoption;
- must have worked at least 330 hours in those 10 months (equivalent to around one full day of work each week); and
- must have an adjusted taxable income of \$150 000 or less in the financial year prior to the date of birth or adoption of the child.

For more information on the Paid Parental Leave scheme, please go to http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/publicationsarticles/corp/BudgetPAES/budget09_10/parental_leave/Pages/AustraliasPaidParentalLeave-Scheme.aspx.