



The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and
Local Government

Sharon Bird MP
Member for Cunningham

Media Statement

RUDD GOVERNMENT DELIVERS \$16.4 MILLION TO LOCAL COUNCILS IN CUNNINGHAM TO PROVIDE ROADS AND SERVICES

Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure and Local Government, and the Member for Cunningham, Ms Sharon Bird MP, today announced that local councils in Cunningham are set to share over 16.4 million (\$16,448,911) in financial assistance grants from the Rudd Labor Government.

In addition, the Wollongong City Council is in the top 20 councils in New South Wales in terms of both highest general purpose and highest local road financial assistance grants, coming in at 2nd and 16th respectively.

All councils in Cunningham will receive funds from the Government. Their allocations are:

- Wollondilly \$ 2,687,342
- Wollongong \$ 13,761,569

Mr Albanese said, "Across New South Wales, the Rudd Labor Government is delivering \$597 million, an increase of 7.23 per cent since last year (2007-08).

"This is the highest level of funding ever provided to local governments in New South Wales."

Ms Bird said, "This is great news for local councils like Wollongong, which will be able to deliver roads and services for our local communities.

"Residents in Cunningham expect good local roads, decent libraries, well maintained parks and pools, regular garbage pick-ups, and high quality child care and other services."

Mr Albanese said, "That's why the Rudd Government's grants are untied so that councils can spend the funds on local priorities.

"And it's important to remember that the \$16,448,911 is on top of the money available to councils this year from our *Roads to Recovery* program."

Ms Bird said, "The Rudd Government understands how important these grants are for rural and regional cities, where they can make up more than half of council revenue.

"About 72 per cent – or \$430 million – of the grants are for rural and regional councils, which deliver jobs and services in local communities.

"Local councils will receive the first quarterly payment on or shortly after 20 August 2008."

25 August 2008