



COUNTRY LABOR DIALOGUE

CONNECTING COUNTRY COMMUNITIES - MARCH 2010

Premier Kristina Keneally A New Direction

To support our new Premier, Kristina Keneally, NSW Labor recently launched a campaign entitled *Kristina Keneally: A New Direction*.

Starting with a television advertisement and a new website (view it at www.kristinakeneally.com.au), the campaign allows our new Premier to introduce herself directly to the public.

Branch members can help in this campaign by handing out our introductory pamphlet about Kristina at street stalls, or in your community.

We also have Kristina Keneally corflute posters to help with your street stalls.

For copies of the pamphlets, or corflute posters, contact Country Organiser, Courtney Roche on 1800 503 035 or courtney@nswalp.com



NSW Premier Kristina Keneally and Federal Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator Penny Wong travelled to Lake Cargellico to announce funding for a \$19 million pipeline to secure the town's water supply. Premier Kristina Keneally visited the region in December as part of her drought tour to Country NSW, and pledged to act on the issues raised with her.



Matt Thistlethwaite
GENERAL
SECRETARY

Country Labor Parliamentary

During February, the Country Labor Parliamentary Group (CLPG) visited the North Coast to talk to community groups, visit local industry and inspect State Government funded projects.

The CLPG met with branch members in Kempsey, Bellingen, Nambucca Heads, Coffs Harbour and Maclean, where they held functions and talked about local issues concerning their communities. These included:

- youth crime;
- neighbourhood centres funding;
- health issues in rural and regional NSW;
- crisis housing in coastal, rural and regional areas;
- water pricing and access disparity;
- PCYC expansion;
- flying fox issue at Maclean High School; and
- funding for the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium of Music.

Loan will k



**\$2000
eases pony
club flood
damage**

Grafton Daily Examiner 20 Feb 2010



Group visits **the North Coast**

Coffs Harbour Advocate 20 Feb 2010

Dam funds get top-up \$236,000 for final touches

Coffs Harbour Advocate 19 Feb 2010

ick-start new development



While on the North Coast the CLPG:

- opened new and upgraded boating facilities in Nambucca Heads and Macksville that were given funding from the NSW Government of more than \$53,000;
- visited Bamboo Direct, a Coffs Harbour company benefiting from the NSW Government's payroll tax rebates which will help the company create 45 jobs over 5 years;
- visited the Coffs Harbour Marina to inspect future plans for the Coffs Harbour Jetty and foreshore;
- announced a \$2.8 million loan for the Coffs Harbour City Council for sewerage infrastructure in South Coffs Harbour;
- announced the NSW Government would provide a further \$236,000 to Clarence Valley Council towards the construction of Shannon Creek Dam, adding to the \$35.8 million in funding already provided; and
- gave \$2,000 to the Lower Clarence Pony Club to help with damages caused by last year's flood.

Thank you to Christine Robertson, Convenor of the CLPG and Mick Veitch, Deputy Convenor of the CLPG for their hard work in ensuring the visit was such a success. Thank you to all of the MPs and MLCs who attended, and to the branch members for organising such great local functions.

Riverboat business booms

Coffs Harbour Advocate 18 Feb 2010

NSW Government announcements you might have missed...

70% of the roads budget spent in Country NSW

Minister for Transport and Roads David Campbell has reported that 70% of the roads budget will be spent on regional roads this year. The Coalition has called on the Government to spend 60% of the roads budget on regional roads – showing how out of touch they are.

Relief for farmers as drought declines

Minister for Primary Industries Steve Whan has released the latest drought figures, showing a drop of 16% since last month. This year's rainfall has seen a reduction in many parts of the State, but 65.7% still remains in drought.

Exemption for farmers and pensioners from vehicle weight charges

Minister for Transport and Roads David Campbell has announced that farmers will be exempt from the new vehicle weight charges. Pensioners and hybrid cars will also be exempt from these charges.

\$190 million wind and solar farm near Scone

Premier Kristina Keneally and Planning Minister Tony Kelly have announced approval for plans for a \$190 million wind and solar farm near Scone in the Upper Hunter Valley. The farm will provide renewable power for 47,000 homes, create 183 construction jobs and 12 ongoing jobs. It will also save hundreds of thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions.

Launch of virtual selective school

Minister for Education Verity Firth has launched a new virtual selective school for 30 students from remote parts of NSW. The school uses the latest technology, including laptops, interactive whiteboards, web streaming and video conferencing to connect the students. Students enrolled in the program will spend half their day in the virtual classrooms and half in their local school.

Planning approval for penultimate stage of Hume Highway

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly has announced planning approval for the Woomargama Bypass south of Holbrook. This penultimate section includes approximately 9 kilometres of dual carriage highway. The final stage of the Hume Highway upgrade, the Holbrook bypass, is currently being reviewed by the Department of Planning.

For more details on any of these stories [visit www.nswalp.com](http://www.nswalp.com)



Campaign training

Towards the upcoming Federal and State election campaigns, we will be holding a series of one-day Campaign Insight programs around NSW.

If your campaign is interested in holding one of these sessions, please contact Country Organiser Courtney Roche on 1800 503 035 or courtney@nswalp.com



Do you have a story for Country Labor Dialogue? Email your story and photos to courtney@nswalp.com