



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

Building the Country package on track

2 September 2009

Premier Nathan Rees today announced that the NSW Government was investing around \$1.45 million in three regional cities to help create around 470 new direct and indirect jobs.

Mr Rees said the Government's assistance would unlock \$7.35 million of investment with the three projects contributing more than \$147.9 million into the state's economy over the next five years.

"Country communities are the lifeblood of NSW and that's why the NSW Government introduced new funding aimed squarely at giving bush communities a hand.

"\$85 million is being spent through the Building the Country Package to help rural and regional communities and businesses struggling to make ends meet during these tough economic times and the ongoing drought."

Mr Rees said the three new infrastructure projects receiving funding were based in Scone, Blayney and Gloucester and include:

- \$735,000 to Blayney Shire Council to construct new road and power infrastructure to expand the Blayney SeaLink site industrial hub and secure new business in Blayney;
- \$600,000 to Upper Hunter Shire Council to build critical infrastructure for a new industrial estate on the New England Highway at Scone; and
- \$122,500 for road, water and sewerage infrastructure for a new medical centre in Gloucester.

"These projects will fund vital infrastructure needed to help local businesses establish, expand or relocate – unlocking business growth and new jobs," Mr Rees said.

"All three projects will help create more than 470 new direct and indirect jobs – a major boost for local employment and economies.

"We know that our focus on helping rural and regional communities is already making a real difference across towns and cities from Harden on the Southern Tablelands, to Millthorpe in the Central West, Warialda in the North West and Finley in the Murray.

"The number of people employed in rural and regional NSW has increased by more than 108,000 over the past five years according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labor Force Survey.

"This growth cements this Government's commitment to helping families come through tough times stronger and more prosperous."