



The Hon Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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**ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF
MINING AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

An economic assessment of mining has been carried out for the first time in the State's history, ensuring people in mining affected communities can see how much tax is raised and how much their regions receive in government expenditure, Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services Andrew Stoner said today.

An independently audited NSW Government Economic Assessment has revealed most mining affected communities in NSW received more funding per head of population in 2010-11 than those unaffected by mining.

The report did identify that two mining affected NSW Local Government Areas – Singleton and Muswellbrook – received less capital and recurrent funding per capita than the State average in 2010-11.

Announcing the outcome of the assessment in Parliament today, Mr Stoner said it marked the fulfilment of an important election commitment and that the work will help to deliver improved local infrastructure for mining affected communities.

“We understand that mining activity can put additional stress on local infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges,” Mr Stoner said.

“That’s why the NSW Liberals & Nationals made an election commitment to introduce a *Resources for the Regions* program, which included undertaking an economic assessment of mining affected communities.

“This Economic Assessment of Mining Affected Communities – the first in NSW – is part of the NSW Government’s commitment to restoring accountability and transparency to government.

“The Economic Assessment was undertaken to help guide the NSW Government’s long term infrastructure decisions.

“We have provided the Economic Assessment to Infrastructure NSW for their consideration when developing the 20 year strategy for infrastructure in NSW due later this year.

“The Working Group who undertook the Economic Assessment has suggested that given the variable nature of capital contributions, particularly road funding, the data in this report should be re-examined annually.

“This will ensure both the robustness of the analysis and that communities where mining activity is beginning or increasing are adequately assessed, and the NSW Government has adopted this recommendation.

“The NSW Government will engage with Muswellbrook and Singleton local councils and Infrastructure NSW to identify key economic infrastructure projects in these regions,” Mr Stoner said.

Resources for the Regions infrastructure funding will be allocated from Restart NSW, the NSW Government’s new capital fund which consists of any windfall tax revenue, realisation of the capital invested in assets, such as from the Sydney Desalination Plant, and borrowings, including Waratah bonds.

Initial allocations from Restart NSW are expected to be announced as part of the annual State Budget process.

Annual reassessments will be undertaken to ensure other mining affected communities are again considered for their fair share of infrastructure funding in future years.