

The Bottom Line

... on the Nation Building and Jobs Plan

SID SIDEBOTTOM MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BRADDON

...for a fair go



The facts - what does the plan mean for the NW Coast...

The Rudd Government has announced a \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan to support the Australian economy and local jobs.

Under the plan, Tasmania and the North-West Coast will receive an injection of more than \$1b into the State economy.

Funding to Tasmania will include \$370m for education infrastructure and capital works, \$138m to build 500 new public houses and \$9.2m for maintenance to existing public housing.

The national package also includes \$12.2b in one off cash payments to families, almost \$4b to make Australia

lian homes more energy efficient, and \$2.7b to provide temporary tax breaks to small businesses.

Thousands of NW home owner-occupiers will also be able to access free ceiling insulation (up to \$1600) - saving a possible \$200 per year on their energy bills.

Landlords can also access an increased rebate of up to \$1,000 for the installation of insulation in their rental properties.

This newsletter offers as much information to NW Coasters as possible about the eligibility requirements for this plan, as well as the expected time and method that the one-off payments will be made.

"We live in worrying times and although we haven't felt the full brunt of the global financial crisis locally, we have to do everything we can to meet it head on."

Sid Sidebottom MP
Federal Member for Braddon



The \$42b plan includes:



Cash payments of up to \$950 to eligible families, single workers, students, drought affected farmers and others



Building or upgrading at every Australian school, including about 80 government and non-government schools on the NW Coast



An extra \$500 million to boost funding to local government community infrastructure and maintenance of our national highways



A 30% tax break for small and general businesses buying eligible assets



Building thousands more community houses



Urgent maintenance to upgrade around 2,500 vacant public rental houses



Free ceiling insulation for thousands of home owner-occupiers on the North-West Coast



An increase to the solar hot water rebate of \$600, up from \$1000, and a doubling of the Low Emissions Plan for Renters to \$1,000



350 additional projects in the Black Spot Road Program

THE LIBERALS CALL PACKAGE A WASTE OF MONEY

The **LIBERAL PARTY** voted against this package twice, calling it a waste of money.

The Liberals tried to stop thousands of North-West Coasters from receiving a bonus cash payment. They tried to stop million of dollars for local infrastructure projects, particularly for our local schools.

On Sunrise on February 13, 2008, the Shadow Minister for Finance Joe Hockey said: "We think the package is way too big, it's wasting too much money on bad spending."



The Nation Building and Jobs Plan

\$14.7b to bolster the Education Revolution



Kevin Rudd and Sid Sidebottom will deliver a share of \$14.7b to all 80 local schools, government and non-government, for eligible infrastructure and capital works projects.

Building the Education Revolution in NW schools will:

-  Build or upgrade large scale infrastructure in our primary and special schools, such as libraries and multipurpose halls.
-  Build new science laboratories and language learning centres in our local high schools with a demonstrated need for upgraded facilities.
-  Provide up to \$200,000 to every one of our local schools for maintenance and renewal of school buildings and minor building works.



The important education questions answered

Q. When will the funding be delivered to local schools?

A. The Building the Education Revolution program will begin immediately, with the funding for maintenance and renewal beginning to be delivered by June 2009.

Q. When will the projects commence?

A. The first projects will commence by the end of June 2009 at the latest.

Q. When will the projects be completed?

A. Minor projects: 6-8 months.

Major projects: must be completed by June 30, 2011.

Q. Will the North West community benefit from these projects?

A. Yes - it is a condition of the projects in primary schools (libraries and multipurpose halls) that schools make these facilities available for community use at no or low cost.

This latest education funding comes in addition to \$1.4m already delivered for 1406 computers to North West high schools as part of the National Secondary Schools Computer Program in 2008/09.

LIBERAL SENATORS RICHARD COLBECK AND STEPHEN PARRY voted against giving money to North-West Coast schools.

Their colleague and Liberal Shadow Minister for Finance Joe Hockey called funding to schools a waste of money.

On Seven's Sunrise on February 13, 2009, Mr Hockey said:

"Well let me tell you, we wouldn't be spending \$14b on school halls. I mean that is a phenomenal amount of money. \$14b... That is just ridiculous."



NW families to share in \$12.2b cash payments

The five one-off cash payments included in the Nation Building and Jobs plan are:



Tax Bonus for Working Australians of up to \$900 paid to every eligible Australian worker earning \$100,000 or less



\$900 Single Income Family Bonus to support 1.5 million families with one main income earner



\$950 per child Back to School Bonus to support children from eligible low to middle income families



\$950 Training and Learning Bonus paid to eligible students and people outside of the workforce returning to study to help with the costs of education and training



\$950 Farmers' Hardship Bonus paid to drought affected farmers and farm dependent small business owners receiving exceptional circumstances related to income support

WHAT, WHEN AND HOW?

\$900 TAX BONUS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

ELIGIBILITY: you must have paid net tax in the 2007-08 financial year.

PAID: from April 2009.

HOW WILL I BE PAID? The Australian Tax Office will make payments by cheque or direct to bank account, however your tax return is usually paid.

LODGE: your 2007-08 tax return before June 30, 2009 to be eligible, if you haven't already.

\$950 TRAINING AND LEARNING BONUS

ELIGIBILITY: you must be receiving Youth Allowance (student and apprentice), Austudy, ABSTUDY or another student or related payment

PAID: from March 24, 2009.

\$950 BACK TO SCHOOL BONUS

ELIGIBILITY: you must receive Family Tax Benefit (A) on February 3, 2009.

Payments are made for each child returning to primary or high school in 2009.

PAID: the fortnight beginning March 11, 2009.

PAYMENTS: made automatically by Centrelink.

\$900 SINGLE-INCOME FAMILY BONUS

ELIGIBILITY: you must receive Family Tax Benefit (B) on February 3, 2009.

PAID: the fortnight beginning March 11, 2009.

PAYMENTS: paid automatically by Centrelink.

LUMP SUM FTB (part b): recipients will receive their bonus payment at the end of the 2008-09 financial year.

\$950 FARMERS' HARDSHIP BONUS

PAYMENTS: made automatically by Centrelink paid from March 24.



The Nation Building and Jobs Plan





Tax break for NW businesses





Making homes energy efficient

The Government's Nation Building and Jobs Plan invests almost \$4 billion in making homes more energy efficient.

Included in this funding:

-  North West home owner-occupiers can access free supply and installation of ceiling insulation (up to \$1600) - this will save a possible \$200 per year on energy bills.
-  Owner-occupiers who have self-organised installation of insulation up until June 30, 2009 can seek reimbursement of their costs.
-  North West landlords can access an increased rebate of \$1000 to install insulation in their rental properties.
-  Rebates of \$1600 are available to North West households to install solar and heat pump hot water systems (if insulation assistance hasn't been claimed)

 Through the \$2.7 billion **Temporary Tax Break** for small and general Businesses, local small businesses will be able to access a 30% tax deduction for assets acquired from December 13, 2008 to June 30, 2009, where the asset is also installed before June 30, 2010. The deduction will be equal to 30% of the asset's cost.

 An immediate boost to cashflow through a 20% discount on the **Pay-As-You-Go** tax instalment payable by March 2, 2009 will also be available.

Extra \$500m for Local Councils

North-West Councils will share in an additional \$500m for community infrastructure as part of the Nation Building and Jobs Plan.




The Rudd Government will give local councils until March 6, 2009 to submit new or revised applications for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program - Strategic Projects.

This funding comes on top of the \$300m infrastructure funding announced by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the Australia Council of Local Government last November.

The Black Spot program aimed at reducing serious accidents will also be increased by \$30m this year and \$60m in 2009-10.

Another \$150m will be invested to help State and Territory governments fund additional regional road maintenance projects.

More funds available for -

-  \$500m to provide one-off grants to provide employment opportunities for disadvantaged and unemployed people with up to \$2m for specific projects that are ready to be implemented. Of this \$500m funding, \$40m is for projects involving bike paths; and \$60m is for national and natural heritage projects.
-  The amount of liquid assets that an unemployed person can have while still gaining immediate access to income assistance will be doubled - For singles to \$5,000 (from \$2,500) and for others to \$10,000 (from \$5,000).
-  \$15m funding will support the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre in Melbourne for the next three years.

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