



Campaign Media Release

MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FEDERAL LABOR MEMBER FOR BRADDON

INVESTING IN BRADDON INFRASTRUCTURE - MERSEY AQUATIC CENTRE

A re-elected Gillard Labor Government will partner with the Bartlett Labor Government to turn Devonport City Council's Mersey Aquatic Centre vision into a reality, with each contributing \$5 million towards this significant regional project.

Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, Anthony Albanese today joined with Federal Labor Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, and the representative of the Tasmanian Government, Brenton Best MP, to make the announcement.

"The Mersey Aquatic Centre is an important part of the Gillard Labor Government's determination to build stronger and sustainable local communities," Anthony Albanese said.

Mr Sidebottom said the modern facility would be built for the benefit of the entire community.

"Whether it's learning to swim, attending a lifesaving or scuba diving course, or just enjoying a day at the local pool, the community will be able to enjoy the new facilities all year round," Sid Sidebottom said.

"This is another example of Federal Labor's commitment to invest in Tasmanian infrastructure, which helps to underpin the regional economy.

"It's in stark contrast to Garry Carpenter and Tony Abbott who would cut investment in regional communities."

Tasmanian Minister for Sport and Recreation, David O'Byrne, said he was pleased to join with the Gillard Labor Government to help realise the long-standing plan that would greatly improve facilities on the North West Coast.

Representing the Tasmanian Minister, Mr Best said: "It is our goal that the Mersey Aquatic Centre will become a hub for the region and will lead to greater participation in aquatic sports."

The new aquatic centre complex will be built to national swimming competition standards and will include:

- A 25 metre, eight lane pool.
- Grandstand seating.
- An infant water awareness pool.
- A therapy spa pool.
- Steam room facilities.
- Filtering, heating, and pumping equipment.

The Aquatic Centre funding will build on the Gillard Labor Government's record investment in this community, including \$60 million provided annually to the Tasmanian Government to maintain and expand clinical services at the Mersey Community Hospital.

This commitment will be fully offset over the forward estimates consistent with the Gillard Labor Government's commitment to return the budget to surplus in 3 years.

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