

WINTER 2023



HUNTER NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM DAN REPACHOLI • YOUR LOCAL FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HUNTER



Office: 3 Edward Street Cessnock NSW 2325 Phone: 02 4991 1022 Email: Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au Web: DanRepacholiMP.com

Delivering for the Hunter Electorate

After a wasted decade under the Liberals, the Albanese Labor Government is working hard to deliver the positive change that Australians voted for. This Budget is part of our plan to deliver a strong foundation for a better future for all Australians.

I know family budgets are under pressure. That's why we're making child care cheaper, strengthening Medicare, cutting the cost of medicines, and delivering targeted energy bill relief to help families and businesses save money on their power bills.

Our top priority in the Budget is providing responsible cost of living relief.

I know vulnerable Australians need more support. That's why we're lifting the cut-off age for the single parent payment from 8 to 14. And we're increasing Rent Assistance, study payments and JobSeeker to help make sure no-one is left behind.

And we are planning for the future and laying the right foundations for our economy and country. That's why we're

delivering 300,000 fee-free TAFE places, and powering tomorrow with investments in renewables, industry and skills and technology.



Our top priority in the Budget is providing responsible cost of living relief."

In just under a year, we've come a long way. But I know there is a lot of work still to do.

I am proud to be part of a Government that has handed down a responsible and practical Budget that will deliver targeted relief to the people who need it most. I'll keep working hard every day to deliver for the Hunter electorate.



Chatting with our Treasurer Dr Jim Chalmers and our Finance Minister, Senator Katy Gallagher.

From Dan's Desk



This is a responsible and practical Budget that will help take the pressure off Australian families.

After a wasted decade under the Liberals and Nationals, the Albanese Labor Government is working to provide Australians with security, while setting our country up for the future.

This is a Budget that delivers for Australians. From targeted bill relief to help families and businesses with rising electricity bills, to supporting single parents, to the largest investment in bulk billing in the history of Medicare – the 2023 Budget lays the foundations for a stronger and more resilient economy.

That's what Labor Budgets are always about, tackling today's challenges and building for tomorrow. Making responsible and disciplined choices that put our economy and our society on stronger footing.

I know that households and businesses are feeling the pressure. I know there is a lot of work to do.

I am getting on with the job.

Dan Repacholi MP

Federal Member for Hunter

INSIDE Strengthening Medicare (P2) Cheaper Child Care, Cheaper Energy Bills in Hunter (P3) Pay Rise for Aged Care Workers (P3) Delivering for the Hunter (P4 & 5) Farewell Old Girl (P6) Seniors and Pensioners Kits Available (P6) Catch Up With Me In The Electorate (P7) Marjorie Turns 100 (P8)

Strengthening Medicare

At the last election, I said we would strengthen Medicare, and we are delivering on that promise. We are strengthening our health care system, making sure Australians can access the care that they need when they need it most.

We have already saved Australians money through our cheaper medicines policy, and now we are taking the hassle out of filling your script and are making medicines even cheaper.

Patients will no longer be required to attend a pharmacy every month, and will now be able to fill a script for two months at a time.

That's fewer visits to the doctor each time you need a prescription, fewer visits to pharmacies, and fewer fees.

We've cut the cost of medicines, we're helping GPs to invest in their practices, and we're opening Australia's first Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinics and Medicare Urgent Care Clinics across the country.

The Albanese Government is strengthening our health care system for all Australians.

**We're
strengthening
this**

medicare

Medicare Urgent Care Clinic for Cessnock



Planning for the Medicare Urgent Care Clinic in Cessnock is almost complete and a site has been chosen and will be established as part of an existing GP clinic in the area.

I recently met up with Health Minister, Mark Butler, and he confirmed that the new clinic will be open in the next few months.

The Urgent Care Clinic will make it easier for locals to get high quality care for urgent, but non-life threatening health issues. The Urgent Care Clinic will be open extended business hours, seven days a week to provide the care you and your family need, with no out of pocket costs to patients.

This new clinic will take pressure off of our local emergency department, leaving overworked doctors and nurses available to attend to more serious and life threatening cases.

GP Access After Hours Restored For Toronto

I am also pleased to announce that after reinstating funding for the GP Access After Hours Clinic at Toronto Polyclinic, hours have been restored.

We said we would save GP Access After Hours after the previous Government cut the funding, and we've wasted no time in getting on with the job.

I know how important the increased hours of operation for the clinic at Toronto Polyclinic is to Lake Macquarie families. This will mean patients are able to access face to face and telehealth primary care services outside business hours. These services are bulk billed and delivered by GPs and Registered Nurses.

All of this means residents in the Hunter electorate will have access to quality care and will mean a reduction in Hospital waiting times.



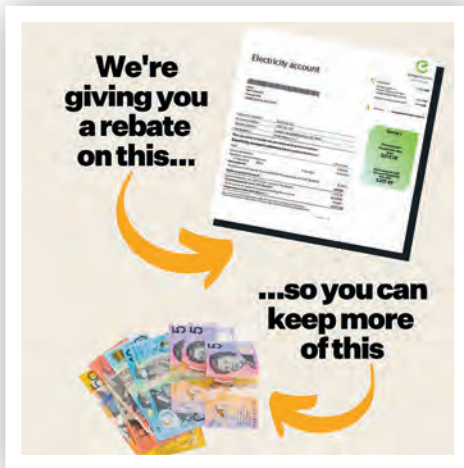
Cheaper Child Care

Around 6,500 families in the Hunter electorate are set to benefit from the Albanese Labor Government's Cheaper Child Care scheme, from the 1st of July.

The changes will cut costs by about \$1,700 a year for the average family on \$120,000 a year, who have a child in care three days a week.

96% of families in the system will be better off under Labor's changes, and no family will be worse off.

Cheaper Child Care will help ease cost-of-living pressures on families, and make it easier for parents to return to paid work, or work more paid hours, if they want to.



Cheaper Energy Bills In Hunter

I know the anxiety that many households face when receiving their quarterly power bills.

That's why I am pleased to share with you that residents and businesses in our community may be eligible to receive rebates off their electricity bills under the Albanese Government's Energy Price Relief Plan.

Households and businesses may be eligible for a rebate of up to \$500 off their power bills.

The scheme will be delivered in partnership with the NSW Government, and will come into effect from the 1st of July.

This is responsible and targeted cost of living relief, and I know it will make a meaningful difference to households and businesses in our community.

Much Needed Pay Rise For Aged Care Workers

After a decade of neglect, we're getting on with the job of fixing aged care. We have delivered a record \$11.3 billion dollars in funding for a 15% pay rise for aged care workers.

Every worker deserves a fair day's pay for a fair day's work and that's what this will deliver for thousands in aged care across the Hunter electorate.

This Budget commitment will deliver a pay increase for more than 250,000 aged care workers across the country.

Registered nurses, enrolled nurses, assistants in nursing, personal care workers, head chefs and cooks, recreational activities officers (lifestyle workers) and home care workers will see a historic increase to their award wages.

The wage rise will reflect the intent of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety's final report to improve pay for aged care staff.

Aged care workers look after our loved ones and it's time we look after them.



Meeting with Aged Care Workers from the Hunter with Assistant Health Minister Emma McBride.

Delivering for the Hunter

Delivering for our community is what you elected me to do.

This is a map of the Hunter electorate that shows the grants and infrastructure projects delivered to the Hunter electorate in the first 12 months of Government.

I look forward to delivering many more projects and grants over the coming years.

Lake Macquarie LGA

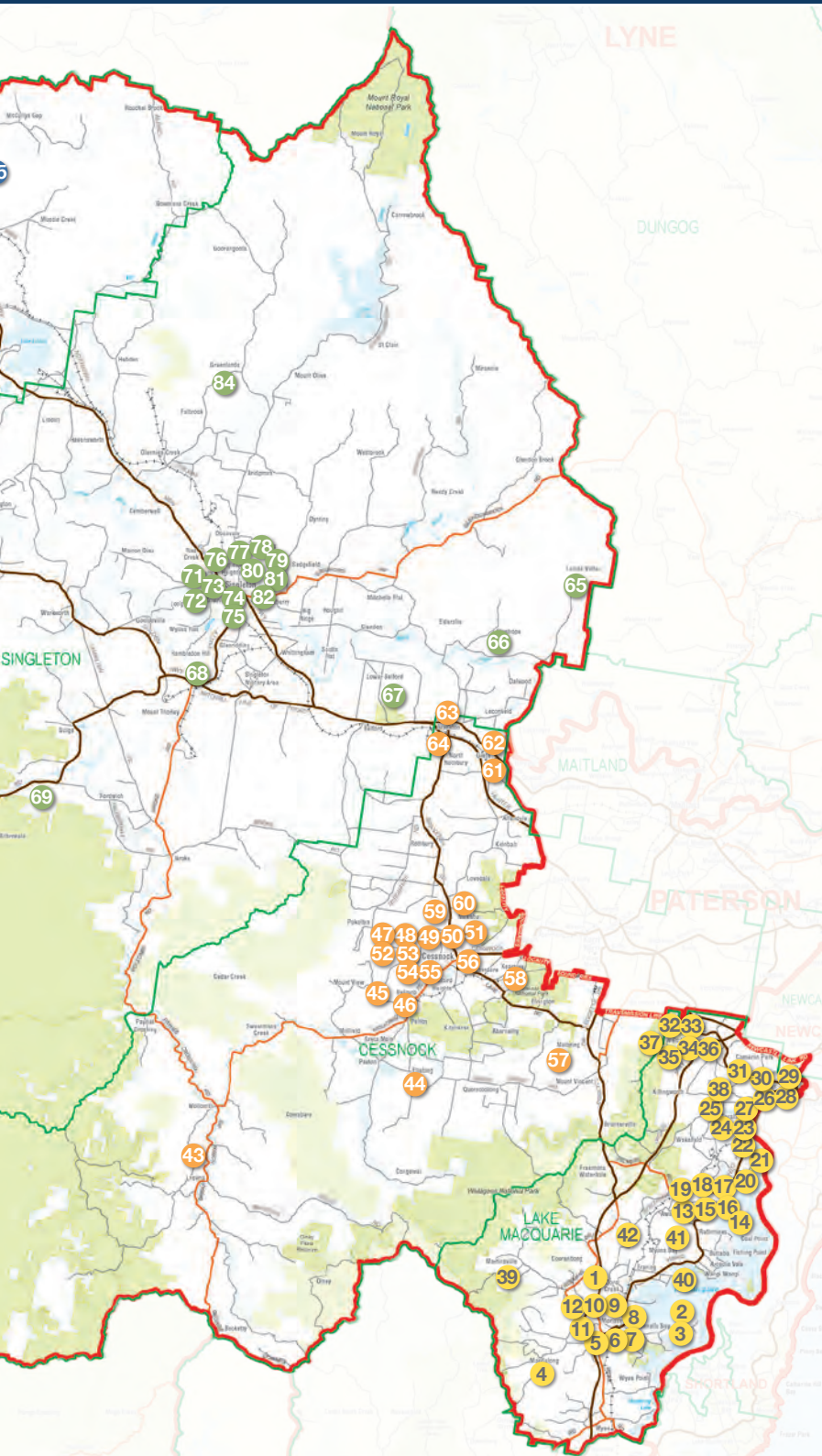
1. Urban River projects **\$250,000**
2. South Lake Macquarie Amateur Sailing Club, grant: **\$1,500**
3. Peninsula Rural Fire Brigade, grant: **\$5,000**
4. Deaves Road, Mandalong upgrade: **\$8.7m**
5. Mandalong Road, Morisset upgrade: **\$56m**
6. Morisset High School, grant: **\$25,000**
7. Morisset Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
8. St John Vianney's Primary School, grant: **\$25,000**
9. Hunter Arts Collective, grant: **\$2,794**
10. Morisset Lake Macquarie Agriculture Assoc, grant: **\$2,800**
11. Lions Club of Morisset Inc, grant: **\$1,000**
12. Watagan Agility Group, grant **\$2,000**
13. Toronto Tigers Baseball Club, grant: **\$3,500**
14. Carey Bay Toronto Scout Group, grant **\$1,000**
15. Toronto Adventist School, grant: **\$25,000**
16. Toronto Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
17. Biraban Public School, grant: **\$24,035**
18. Westlakes Poly Clinic, GP Access After Hours restoration
19. Lions Club of Toronto, grant: **\$1,500**
20. Fennell Bay Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
21. Sir William Dobell Memorial Committee Inc, grant: **\$1,580**
22. Lake Macquarie High School, grant: **\$25,000**
23. Teralba Amateur Sailing Club Inc, grant: **\$1,668**
24. Lake Macquarie Landcare Volunteer Network, grant: **\$1,500**
25. Teralba Public School P&C, grant: **\$4,525**
26. Argenton Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
27. Lake Macquarie City Football Club: **\$500,000**
28. Hunter Sports Centre: **\$12m**
29. Glendale Edgeworth Girl Guides, grant: **\$2,000**
30. Edgeworth Eagles FC: **\$65,000**
31. Cameron Park Rural Fire Brigade, grant: **\$1,842**
32. West Wallsend Senior Football Club, grant: **\$1,185**
33. Mount Sugarloaf Croquet Club, grant: **\$2,000**
34. Australian Breastfeeding Assoc - Lower Hunter, grant: **\$2,600**
35. West Wallsend High School, grant: **\$25,000**
36. West Wallsend Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
37. Mums Cottage, Holmesville: **\$250,000**
38. Weir Bridge Barnsley: **\$4.7m**
39. Owens Road Bridge, Martinsville: **\$2.1m**
40. Permanent Dredge for Lake Macquarie: **\$10m**
41. Grouting Fund for Lake Macquarie: **\$10m**
42. Lake Macquarie Council roads: **\$2.8m**



Cessnock LGA

43. Laguna Community Hall, grant: **\$1,800**
44. Ellalong Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
45. Bellbird Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
46. BMX Facility Carmichael Park: **\$500,000**
47. Cessnock West Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
48. St Patrick's Primary School, grant: **\$10,000**
49. Mount View High School, grant: **\$25,000**
50. Cessnock Regional Skate Park: **\$1m**
51. Cessnock Goannas: **\$373,000**

Delivering for the Hunter



- 61. Anvil Creek Bridge, Greta: **\$700,000**
- 62. Greta Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 63. Branxton Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 64. Girl Guides Assoc - Branxton, grant: **\$1,470**

Singleton LGA

- 65. Kilfoyles Bridge, Lambs Valley: **\$4.5m**
- 66. Stanhope Road, Stanhope: **\$2.5m**
- 67. Dashville Skyline Cosmic Country Weekender 2023, grant: **\$49,000**
- 68. Golden Highway upgrade: **\$2.6m**
- 69. Milbrodale Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 70. Putty Road, Milbrodale to Putty: **\$12.2m**
- 71. Singleton High School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 72. Singleton Bypass: **\$700m**
- 73. Singleton Bulls Rugby Club: **\$250,000**
- 74. Aloy Oval, Singleton: **\$3m**
- 75. Singleton Netball Association courts: **\$1.1m**
- 76. Singleton Showground: **\$485,000**
- 77. Singleton Council Roads: **\$1.3m**
- 78. Singleton Historical Society & Museum Inc, grant: **\$1,000**
- 79. Singleton Track and Field Club, grant: **\$1,520**
- 80. Singleton Mountain Bike Club, grant: **\$4,000**
- 81. Singleton CWA, grant: **\$1,399**
- 82. Slow Food Singleton Inc, grant: **\$1,500**
- 83. Jerrys Plains Public School, grant: **\$11,690**
- 84. Mount Pleasant Public School, grant: **\$25,000**

Muswellbrook LGA

- 85. Martindale Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 86. Denman & District Heritage Village Inc, grant: **\$2,000**
- 87. Denman Public School: **\$25,000**
- 88. Denman Road upgrade: **\$7.1m**
- 89. Sandy Hollow Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 90. Wybong Road upgrade: **\$6.4m**
- 91. Muswellbrook High School, grant: **\$20,000**
- 92. Muswellbrook South Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 93. Muswellbrook Bypass: **\$269m**
- 94. Muswellbrook Town Centre Project: **\$10.5m**
- 95. Muswellbrook Olympic Park: **\$5.5m**
- 96. Muswellbrook Preschool Playgroup: **\$7,000**
- 97. Karoola Park, Muswellbrook: **\$970,000**
- 98. Bell Street Bridge, Muswellbrook: **\$679,000**
- 99. Muswellbrook Council Roads: will receive **\$911,242**
- 100. Muswellbrook Netball Association, grant: **\$2,500**
- 101. Head To Health Mental Health Clinic

- 52. Cessnock Medicare Urgent Care Clinic
- 53. Cessnock Council Roads: **\$1.7m**
- 54. Cessnock Support Group Westpac Helicopter, grant: **\$1,200**
- 55. Hunter Food Relief Centre, grant: **\$1,000**
- 56. Cessnock District Rescue Assoc - VRA, grant: **\$4,400**
- 57. Lower Hunter Rural Fire Service, grant: **\$2,442**
- 58. Kearsley Public School, , grant: **\$25,000**
- 59. Nulkaba Public School, grant: **\$25,000**
- 60. St Philip's Christian College Cessnock Campus, grant: **\$1m**

Farewell Old Girl

It's the end of an era for our region in the Hunter, with the closure of the Liddell Power Station. Liddell was built in 1971 and served our region and our state for well over 52 years. It provided much of New South Wales with reliable, affordable power and provided our region with well-paid, secure jobs.



We knew this day would eventually come. The closure was first announced in 2015, and, in the period since then, Liddell had two extensions to its life. But it is still a sad time for those in the Upper Hunter who have grown so used to seeing the smokestacks of Liddell just outside of Muswellbrook. It's part of the Upper Hunter, and it's hard to imagine what it will be like driving up along the New England Highway when we'll no longer be seeing it, in just over 18 months, when demolition has been completed.

Liddell had well and truly done its service to us, but the time had come for the aged power station to close. It had reached the end of its economic and physical life. As it aged, it became less reliable for our energy grid, more expensive to operate and more unsafe for those who worked there. This is why it was time for it to close.

Liddell was a baseload power station. Its job was to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, making sure our state had reliable power when it was needed. But because of its age, we could not depend on Liddell to supply us with reliable

power like it once did. In recent years, the station was operating under capacity. This is why there is no need to fear about our energy supply or price hikes, now that it has closed. This has also been confirmed by the Australian Energy Market Operator, who has told us that there will be no threat to supply from the closure.

I'm proud that the Hunter has been a powerhouse for New South Wales for over half a century, and I will spend every day that I work in this job fighting to make sure that we continue to be the region that keeps the lights on in New South Wales for the next 50 years as well. While the closure of Liddell is the end of an era, it is also the start of a new one, filled with new opportunities and good, secure, high-paying jobs in our area.

Thank you to everyone who has worked at Liddell over the years. The Hunter and the whole of New South Wales is grateful for the important work that you did to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Goodbye, old girl.

Seniors and Pensioners Kits Available

My office has brand new Seniors and Pensioners Kits that can be picked up or posted out from my office. They can also be downloaded from my website.

The rising cost-of-living is hitting a lot of Australians hard. The Albanese Labor Government has committed to helping older Australians through this difficult time and ensure that they keep more money in their pockets. We are already working on lowering the cost-of-living by giving more older Australians access to the Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, delivering cheaper medicines, and topping up the Age Pension work bonus income bank.

In this kit you will find a range of useful information relating to the latest pension payment rates as well as information relating to services and general safety tips.

You can call, email or visit my office to get your hands on one, or visit my website, www.DanRepacholiMP.com and request a copy.



With Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Social Services, who is holding the latest copy of my Seniors and Pensioners Kit

Catch Up With Me In The Electorate

The Hunter electorate covers more than 10,000 square kilometres and spans from Wyee in the south to Sandy Hollow in the west.

As many people cannot attend my office due to the distance required to travel, I hold regular mobile offices and street stalls right across the Hunter electorate. I also hold a regular **Coffee with a Pollie**, where I get a table of people together and go to a Coffee Shop in the Hunter electorate and chat through Federal Government issues.

I advertise my upcoming mobile offices, street stalls and Coffee with a Pollie events in my weekly e-newsletter and on my website at www.DanRepacholiMP.com

You can always call my office on **02 4991 1022** to see when I will next be in your area.

If your matter is urgent, you can always speak with my staff or I can arrange a chat over the phone as time permits.



Flag Requests

One great part of my job is getting to visit local schools, not-for-profit organisations, Australian exchange students, serving defence personnel, and families of war veterans and present them with flags for presentations or display.

My office can provide the National Flag, the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

All you need to do is drop me a short letter or jump onto my website, www.DanRepacholiMP.com/community-hub/flag-requests and fill in the form. Flags can be collected from my office, or I can arrange a visit to present them formally.



Stay Up To Date

Every week, I publish a short e-newsletter about the issues of the week and my travels around the electorate. You can sign up via my website, www.DanRepacholiMP.com/contact/e-news-sign-up or by sending me an email.

During my campaign, I used social media to connect and engage with our local community. I'd like to extend that level of service as your Federal MP.

Please follow me online, and in particular, engage with comments.

See you online!



Congratulatory Messages

Did you know that Australians who are celebrating certain milestone birthdays or wedding anniversaries can request a congratulatory message from the Prime Minister, Governor-General or the King?

My Electorate Office can organise congratulatory messages for 50th, 60th, 65th and 70th Wedding Anniversaries and for 90th & 100th Birthdays from the Governor-General, Prime Minister, Premier, Federal and State MPs and Local Government representatives.

The King and Governor-General will also send special messages for 60th Wedding Anniversaries and 100th Birthdays.

You can request a congratulatory message through my electorate office. To request a message, you can call the office on 02 4991 1022, contact me via my website, www.DanRepacholiMP.com or visit the office at 3 Edward Street, Cessnock. Please note that you must provide evidence (eg. birth certificate, marriage certificate, statutory declaration).

The message will be posted directly to the nominee. For surprise messages, an alternate postal address (to a relative or care-giver for example) can be given for the message.

A congratulatory message can be requested up to two months prior to the event. A belated message request can be requested up to one month after the event.

Marjorie Turns 100

Marjorie is better known as the 'Queen of Morisset Spinners and Weavers', a group that she has been a part of for almost 40 years and which she still attends weekly.

In 2001, at the spritely age of 78, Marjorie set a world record in the 'Back to Back Challenge', where a team comprising of a shearer and spinners, turned a freshly shorn fleece into an adult jumper in a world record time of 6 and a half hours.

At Marjorie's 100th birthday celebrations, she even had a special visit from Paddington Bear who delivered some marmalade sandwiches.

A massive bonus was the trays and trays of fairy bread. I may have sampled a few slices.

It was a great honour to meet Marjorie and hear her story firsthand.



JP Services Available

If you need any documents signed or certified, there are JPs in my office every day during business hours. Drop in if you need the service.



WANT TO BECOME A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE?

By volunteering to become a JP, you will provide services to your community or place of employment.

To become a JP you will need to:

Step 1: Confirm your eligibility and register for JP Online.

Step 2: Complete the JP Knowledge Test on JP Online.

Step 3: Complete the JP appointment application on JP Online. This includes requesting a NSW Member of Parliament (MP) to consider nominating you.

Step 4: Take the Oaths of Office.

Visit the JP website: www.jp.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Dan Repacholi MP, Your Federal Member for Hunter

ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO HELP If I can help with any Federal Government matters please call my office on **02 4991 1022** or send an email to **Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au**

OFFICE: 3 Edward Street, Cessnock NSW 2325 PHONE: 02 4991 1022
EMAIL: Dan.Repacholi.MP@aph.gov.au WEB: www.DanRepacholiMP.com

