

100% FOR TWEED

GEOFF PROVEST MP

Member for Tweed



THE NATIONALS for Regional NSW

June 2015

Massive upgrade for Tweed Hospital

The Tweed Hospital has received a huge boost with Geoff Provest convincing the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government to invest in a \$48 million redevelopment.

Tweed Hospital medical staff council chair, Dr Ian McPhee said it was the most significant thing to have happened at the hospital since 1973.

Geoff Provest said \$40 million would be spent to upgrade the emergency department and redevelop wards and specialist units, with the remaining \$8 million allocated for a new multi-storey car park.

“What that means is a start on the most high priority clinical service upgrades which include \$6 million for a new inpatient ward block, \$2million for a sixteen bed integrated Intensive Care Unit/High Dependency Unit, \$1 million for the Coronary Care Unit, \$8 million for Diagnostic and Interventional Cardiology and \$8 million for the Emergency Department expansion,” Mr Provest said.

“The Ambulance Station will be relocated to make way for these developments.”

“This is just the first but most significant stage of the Liberal and Nationals Government’s \$211 million plan to upgrade the Tweed Hospital.”

“It shows that the Government’s decision to introduce Local District Health boards is delivering better local health outcomes for the Tweed.”



HEALTHY TWEED: Chair of the Tweed Hospital medical staff council Dr Ian McPhee, Health Minister Jillian Skinner, Geoff Provest and Deputy Premier Troy Grant.

NEW POTTSVILLE AMBULANCE STATION
In related health news, Mr Provest announced the Government will invest \$5.9 million for a new ambulance station

in Pottsville which would significantly reduce emergency service response times for locals and thus has the potential to save lives.

Geoff PROVEST MP

Koalas get new habitat at Cudgen

Cudgen Nature Reserve has become much more koala friendly thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the NSW Liberal and Nationals Government.

Geoff Provest said the funds will go into a project to protect the regionally significant koala population within the reserve, creating an extra two hectares of core habitat.

"This grant will support revegetation efforts in areas of the reserve that had previously been cleared, providing koala food trees and linking fragmented areas of existing habitat together," he said.

"More than 75 hectares of koala habitat will be enhanced in this way. The project will also engage the Tweed community through on-ground works and education to minimise threats to koalas outside the reserve."



Rewards for recycling

Tweed residents will be rewarded for collecting and returning bottles and cans to reverse vending machines from July 2017.

Geoff Provest said the design of the NSW scheme will be finalised in 2016, after a community and industry consultation.

"The government favours a small financial incentive for each container returned, probably 10 cents," Mr Provest said.

"Reverse vending machines will be installed in Tweed parks, beaches and other places."

"As the former chair of the Tweed Regional Clean-Up Australia Day, I know just how committed local residents are for a litter-free Tweed and drink containers make up one third of our litter problem."

Similar schemes are successfully operating in South Australia and the Northern Territory.

New electricity bill discounts for Seniors Card holders

The NSW Government has entered into a new partnership with AGL Energy that will allow NSW Seniors Card holders to access discounted energy plans.

NSW seniors are being encouraged to take advantage of potential savings that are now available on their electricity bills through this new arrangement.

Mr Provest said it was part of the NSW Government policy to expand the Seniors Card program and ease cost of living pressures for the 21,550 NSW Seniors Card holders in Tweed.

"Seniors Card holders in NSW can receive a 20 per cent discount off electricity usage charges. Seniors who switch their gas and electricity to AGL before 30 June will also get a \$50 credit."



The initiative is in addition to the Low Income Household Rebate which helps eligible NSW households to pay their energy bills.

The Low Income Household Rebate provides \$235 a year to eligible customers who hold an electricity account, or \$258 a year to eligible long-term residents of residential communities and retirement villages who receive electricity bills from their community operators.

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\$5m upgrade for Pottsville Public School

The NSW Liberal and Nationals Government will undertake a major upgrade of Pottsville Beach Public School to provide facilities for up to 1000 students.

Geoff Provest said the \$5 million investment would deliver a new multi-storey building with 10 classrooms, a library, a special programs room, sports storage and other student facilities.

“The existing library will be converted into two classrooms and the existing administration block will be extended to provide additional administration and staff facilities,” Mr Provest said.

“The upgrade will remove a number of demountables from the site.”

Mr Provest said official Budget figures showed the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government had invested more than \$9 million in public school capital works and maintenance in the Tweed electorate over the last four years.



Education Minister Adrian Piccoli and Geoff Provest meet Pottsville Beach Public School students.

Tweed crime rates fall again, as Government launches campaign against Ice epidemic

Geoff Provest has congratulated local police officers following the news from the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research that major crime categories continue to trend down in our region.

“The latest data reflects the NSW Liberals and Nationals Government’s commitment to cracking down on crime as well as increases in Tweed police numbers,” Mr Provest said.

In the Tweed, downward trends in crime include: steal from person is down 45.7%; fraud is down 12.4%; and malicious damage to property is down 11.8%

Mr Provest also welcomed the Government’s new campaign against the killer drug Ice (methyl amphetamine).

“Ice has an horrific impact on communities across the State, and the Tweed is not exempt,” Mr Provest said.

“That is why the New South Wales Government is asking people to do b in anyone they suspect of making or dealing the drug.”

“Anyone who knows or sees anything suspicious can anonymously phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 and join the fight against this toxic drug in our community.



Geoff Provest with Police Minister and Deputy Premier, Troy Grant.

Around the Tweed



Geoff Provest catches up with Tweed Councillor Warren Polglase and Tweed Netball Association President Helen Rigney at the Association's Open Day.



Meeting Aussie tennis legend John Fitzgerald and Nationals Duty Senator for Richmond John Williams at the opening of the \$7.7 million Arkinstall Park Regional Sports Centre upgrade project in Tweed Heads South.



One in three people will need a blood donation during their life, but only one in 30 donate.

The Australian Red Cross mobile donor centre regularly visits Tweed Heads South, Kingscliff, Coolangatta and Murwillumbah.

Find out more at www.donateblood.com.au



The Kingscliff and Tweed Heads Fire & Rescue NSW stations have each received a new state of the art fire engine, valued at about \$500,000 a piece.

Contact Geoff Provest MP

THE NATIONALS for Regional NSW

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