



## T R E A S U R E R

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### MEDIA RELEASE

# Coalition misleads on \$200m council fund

Treasurer Eric Roozendaal today condemned the NSW Coalition for misleading councils across the state over the NSW Government's \$200 million Local Infrastructure Fund.

Under the fund, local councils can apply for NSW Government loans to get infrastructure built as quickly as possible, supporting jobs across NSW.

Mr Roozendaal said the Coalition was misleading local councils about the fund.

***“Shadow Minister for Intergovernmental Relations, Chris Hartcher, today condemned Labor’s plan to take Section 94 funds from Councils, just to lend those same funds back to councils, sending Local Government further into debt.***

- NSW Liberals website, June 24, 2009

Mr Roozendaal said: “This is not true.

“This fund does not take Section 94 funds from local councils. I assure councils that Mr Hartcher is just plain wrong.

“Mr Hartcher appears to have severely confused himself, and has sent unfounded fears through the councils of NSW.

“What we are doing is simple: we are lending councils the money they need to bring forward local infrastructure like local roads and roundabouts – infrastructure that will help deliver new housing release areas.

“We are encouraging councils to put their Section 94 funds to work to deliver infrastructure.

“This is obviously a concept too hard for Mr Hartcher to comprehend.”

Mr Roozendaal said the fund has been set up to bring forward infrastructure projects in local communities and open up new land release areas.

“This fund has received widespread support across the community,” he said.

***“The Associations have long called for the government to provide councils with interest free loans to help fund essential infrastructure projects, so this is definitely a win for us.”***

- Local Government Association President Genia McCaffery, *Grenfell Record*, June 19, 2009

Applications for the \$200 million fund opened on June 22.

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**June 24, 2009**

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