

FOR MEDIA

CRAIG EMERSON

Member for Rankin

8 July 2009

Ipswich-Logan a New Priority Employment Area

Federal Member for Rankin, Craig Emerson MP, today welcomed the announcement by the Rudd Government of Ipswich-Logan as a new Priority Employment Area to receive increased support for jobs and keep Australia working.

The adoption of Ipswich-Logan as a Priority Employment Area follows recommendations in the interim *Keep Australia Working* report presented by the Minister for Workplace Participation and the Parliamentary Secretary for Employment to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment earlier today.

Mr Emerson also welcomed other important recommendations in the report, which mean the Government will:

- Hold a *Keep Australia Working* Forum to develop a Strategic Regional Employment Plan;
- Conduct a Centrelink jobs expo and financial information seminar in the Ipswich-Logan Priority Employment Area;
- Consider how best, in the future, to focus the Jobs Fund projects in priority areas like Logan that produce local jobs for local people, training and apprenticeships and pathways to long-term employment.

These recommendations build on existing nation-building and jobs compact measures to support jobs and training during the global recession.

Mr Emerson said Samantha Wilson has been appointed to the position of Local Employment Coordinator to keep Ipswich-Logan working.

Samantha has substantial experience working in employment and industry departments where her primary focus was to help industry and communities access available support for businesses, and training and employment opportunities

"Our local employment coordinator will work towards identifying job and apprenticeship opportunities now while also building the skills the local community needs for the future to take up opportunities once the economy recovers," Mr Emerson said.

"The Rudd Government wants to cushion local jobs and local families from the effects of the global recession, and that is why it is 100 per cent focussed on supporting jobs and stimulating our economy."

A total of 20 local priority areas have been identified as vulnerable to the effects of the global economic crisis using a range of labour market and social indicators.

The interim *Keep Australia Working* report is available at www.deewr.gov.au

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