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BUDGET 08: ELECTION COMMITMENTS DELIVERED

The Rudd Government's first Budget has set a new benchmark by delivering on our election promises made prior to the last election, Federal Member for Oxley, Bernie Ripoll said today.

Mr Ripoll said Budget 2008 had also put working families in the Western Corridor at the centre of the Rudd Government's commitments to tackle inflation and lay the building blocks for a stronger, more modern Australia.

"At the centre of the Budget is a \$55 billion *Working Families Support Package* that delivers on the tax cuts we committed to in the election and helps Australian families with childcare and education costs," he said.

"The Budget also contains a \$40 billion investment in Australia's future to fund new and improved roads, hospitals and schools.

"We're delivering the election commitments made before last year's election because we take seriously the promises we make to Australian families."

"Here in the Western Corridor the Budget has delivered \$5 million for planning the Dinmore to Goodna upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway – something I personally campaigned for at last year's election."

Mr Ripoll said the Budget was the first step towards building a new more modern Australia with first class economic and social infrastructure.

"By making Australia's finances more sustainable we can now start investing in the schools, hospitals, roads, rail and communications projects families in the Western Corridor rely on every day but were neglected by our predecessors for over a decade.

"This has only been made possible because we've had the courage to take the tough decisions that may cause some pain, but in the long term will make Australia stronger."

Key initiatives of the Rudd Government's first Budget include:

- Strong economic management – surplus of \$21.7 billion;

- Abolishing \$7 billion of the Liberals' reckless spending;
- A Working Families Support Package worth \$55 billion;
- Unprecedented investment in Australia's future – around \$40 billion put aside for infrastructure, education and health improvements;
- \$15.2 billion for sustainable water initiatives and to help tackle climate change;
- Over \$22 billion for road and rail projects; and
- An investment of \$2.4 billion for Australian seniors and carers.

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Media contact: Bernie Ripoll (0418 763 351) or Ryan Ginard (0418 879 091)