

28 August 2007

Common Sense saves Tweed Juvenile Justice Office

“senior bureaucrats ... out of town, out of touch and out of control ...”

The relocation of the Tweed Juvenile Justice Office to Twin Towns PCYC rather than Lismore as planned by senior bureaucrats is a win for common sense and the Tweed community, Tweed Nationals MP Geoff Provest said today.

“It is the obvious place to have this office and I am grateful to the PCYC for their contribution to this positive outcome,” Mr Provest said.

“Although the Tweed office should never have been under threat in the first place, I do thank the Minister for Juvenile Justice Barbara Perry for agreeing to come to the Tweed to sort this mess out,” Mr Provest said.

“It is a relief to see there are some Ministers in the Lemma Government who are prepared to listen to us when we voice our Tweed concerns.”

“Two many Labor Ministers rely solely on inept advice from senior bureaucrats, who are out of town, out of touch and out of control.”

“The Tweed Hospital crisis and the mismanagement of the Pacific Highway upgrade at Sexton Hill are obvious examples of these failings.”

Mr Provest said the plan to relocate the Tweed’s only Juvenile Justice officer to Lismore would have saved the Department just \$20,000 a year in rent .

“At the same time, six of the top bureaucrats who came up with this outrageous proposal have just been granted pay rises totalling \$190,000 a year – clearly not performance-based,” Mr Provest said.

“I initially talked the Department out of closing the Tweed Juvenile Justice office, then the Department reneged on the deal, and now we have finally got justice with this third, ministerial-inspired backflip.”

“Let’s hope this is the end of the matter,” Mr Provest concluded.

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