

North Coast NATIONALS

DON PAGE MP
Member for Ballina

THOMAS GEORGE MP
Member for Lismore

STEVE CANSDALL MP
Member for Clarence

GEOFF PROVEST MP
Member for Tweed

1 September 2008

Hands off North Coast Academy of Sport, Nats warn

"...cutting funding to junior sport is short sighted and 'just plain stupid...'"

Four North Coast Nationals State MPs are demanding the Lemna Labor Government reverse its decision to slash funding to the Lismore-based North Coast Academy of Sport by one third.

The NSW Government recently wrote to each of the 11 regional NSW academies notifying them that \$500,000 will be cut from the 2008/09 Budget, a third of their overall funding.

The MPs, Don Page (Ballina), Thomas George (Lismore), Steve Cansdell (Clarence) and Geoff Provest (Tweed), said that was completely unacceptable.

"Labor's funding cuts to the not-for-profit North Coast Academy of Sport amounts to an attack on young people across the Northern Rivers," Thomas George said.

"Sports programs will be lost, many young athletes will not have the opportunity to advance their skills and disadvantaged groups will not be catered for," Don Page said.

Tweed Nationals MP Geoff Provest said the cuts would leave North Coast junior sportspeople disadvantaged compared to their better-funded competitors in South East Queensland.

Clarence Nationals MP Steve Cansdell, himself a former elite athlete, said cutting funding to junior sport was short sighted and 'just plain stupid'