

YOUR SAY

STATE'S NET WORTH GROWS

There is a terrific book by Carl Scully that gives us an insight into what a future Labor Government might look like. Mr Scully was a senior Minister in the 16 years of ALP government from 1995 to 2011. He had a record of getting on with infrastructure, but the Labor machine pulled him down and the State ground to a halt. When Labor is in government, power ultimately rests with Sussex Street. By the end of their term of Government, NSW was the worst-performing state in the nation with government debt of approximately \$20 billion; an infrastructure backlog of \$30 billion and a schools maintenance liability of \$1 billion. That is your hospitals, state roads, bridges, schools and rail that was depreciating and failing the communities of the Hunter. As a 'safe Labor seat', Cessnock was chronically passed over by Labor head office. But the Labor member for Cessnock writes in his column (*Raising the Barr*, 28/3) the financial position of NSW is in jeopardy. A couple of facts the shadow spokesman for finance doesn't seem to grasp: In 2011, the net worth of the state was \$145 billion; today, it is \$226 billion, following prudent financial management by the Liberal Government and asset recycling enabling us to build the infrastructure desperately needed by the families and businesses of NSW. We are annually spending 50 percent more on capital works than the previous government. Strong financial management has enabled us to boost the number of nurses, doctors and midwives by 9397; teachers by 4569; police by 994. NSW is now the strongest-performing state in Australia and the opportunities for Hunter communities will continue under the NSW Liberal-National Government. 2019 will be an opportunity to make sure Cessnock is no longer the 'forgotten' electorate of NSW.

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