

# Media Release

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## **\$150 million for a bridge too far**

Geoff Brown, Independent Candidate for the NSW Seat of Penrith, met recently with Patrice Derrington the CEO of the Penrith Lakes Development Corporation (PLDC) and was told that PLDC will be spending \$150 million to fund the construction of a new bridge across the Nepean River linking the Lakes Scheme to Russell St Emu Plains. It appears this funding will be part of the Development Agreement with the NSW Government.

Mr Brown raised some immediate concerns with Ms Derrington about funding priorities within the Penrith area stating that most people in Penrith would rather have the \$150 million diverted from the new bridge and spent on fixing up the traffic mess in the CBD around the intersections of Jane St, Castlereagh Rd and the Gt Western Highway.

“I feel the new bridge to Emu Plains is not Penrith’s most urgent traffic priority at the moment and that the \$150 million should be diverted to sort out the ever worsening traffic congestion that occurs at the intersections of Jane St, the Castlereagh Rd and the Gt Western Highway.” Said, Geoff Brown.

“We could do so much with that \$150 million and the NSW Government appears irresponsible in not earmarking that funding to be spent within Penrith’s CBD relieving our traffic nightmares. There is no reason why a new tunnel could not be built to avoid these intersections and to eliminate the need to stop at traffic lights.

“There may be a need for a new bridge across the Nepean River at some stage in the future and it may provide a convenient route into the Lakes Scheme and beyond from the M4 but the reality is most of us live East of the River and we commute into the CBD regularly and getting in, around and across the city is a nightmare. The NSW Government insists we are to become the next Parramatta they should ensure that \$150 million is spent wisely to alleviate arguably Penrith’s biggest problem, traffic congestion.”

Further comment

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