



# Kevin Humphries MP

## Shadow Minister for Western NSW

Shadow Minister for Healthy Lifestyles  
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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## **TAMWORTH TAXPAYERS FUNDS WASTED ON LABOR MATE'S COSTLY DEFAMATION CASE**

Shadow Minister for Western NSW Kevin Humphries today said the amount of up to \$1 million taxpayers funds spent following judgments and on legal fees in a recent long-running defamation case could have been much better spent on services and infrastructure in the Western NSW region of Tamworth.

Today the *Sun Herald* has reported that taxpayers will foot the bill for three-time Labor candidate Meryl Dillon in legal fees and associated judgments after it was ruled she defamed two other people on a State Government board.

The State Labor Government authorised the payment of Ms Dillon's legal costs despite not offering the same backing for the two people she had defamed. Ms Dillon was the Labor candidate in the 1999, 2003 and 2007 State elections.

Mr Humphries said this was another case of Labor's misguided priorities and Treasurer Roozendaal must step in to ensure taxpayers are not burdened with the million-dollar payout.

"If people want to defame others then they should be liable, not the taxpayer," Mr Humphries said.

"This matter needs to be investigated and Treasurer Eric Roozendaal needs to say whether he will authorise the spending on bailing out this Labor mate when areas in Western NSW are going without government funding for vital projects," he said.

"In Tamworth, the money could have gone to much better use if it had been spent on the much-needed maternity ward upgrade at Tamworth Hospital.

"While the people of Tamworth miss out at their hospital, Labor looks after its own.

**"Due to the State Labor Government's financial recklessness, we are already on track for a \$2 billion deficit.**

**"The only way to sort out this mess is to change the Government.**

"The NSW Liberal/Nationals will clean up Labor's mess and restore financial responsibility to NSW. The public interest will be put first rather than the interest of Labor mates," Mr Humphries said.

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