

# **\$3 MILLION BOOST TO HELP HUNGRY NSW FAMILIES**

Tuesday 24 February 2015

A re-elected Baird Government will deliver a \$3 million funding boost to Foodbank NSW, ensuring its new distribution centre in Western Sydney becomes a reality.

NSW Treasurer Andrew Constance made the announcement at a sod-turning for the new centre in Glendenning along with Western Sydney MPs and candidates Kevin Conolly (Riverstone), Andrew Rohan (Prospect) and Mark Taylor (Seven Hills).

The \$3 million boost is on top of \$2 million previously committed by the NSW Liberals & Nationals for Foodbank's new centre, which will be three times the size of its existing premises.

"The Baird Government is committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of our community, and that means ensuring mums and dads can put food on the table for their kids," Mr Constance said.

"Foodbank supplies essential food to almost 560 charities, yet alarmingly, 68 per cent of those charities are still turning hungry people away.

"Today's sod-turning is an important milestone in our fight to right this wrong.

"Foodbank's new distribution centre will allow the organisation to triple the amount of meals it provides each day from 20,000 to 60,000, with half of the food relief to support families in regional communities.

"As food insecurity in Australia continues to worsen, with the demand for food relief outpacing supply, it is a priority of the Baird Government to support the efforts of Foodbank.

"Without the food relief efforts of the charity, tens of thousands families across NSW would go without basic necessities."

Foodbank CEO Gerry Andersen said: "We came here today to celebrate the turning of the first sod at Foodbank's new distribution centre and to thank the NSW Government for their significant contribution.

"The additional \$3 million means we now have the funds to secure the building materials and manpower required to complete the \$14 million distribution centre project, and in turn, enable Foodbank to help more everyday Australians put food on their tables and send their kids to school after a nutritious breakfast," Mr Andersen said.

Construction on the new distribution is on a 14,000 square metre block at Glendenning with work to be completed in September 2015.

Andrew Constance MP  
NSW Treasurer  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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