



Mark Speakman

Minister for Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Assistant Minister for Planning

Brad Hazzard

Minister for Family and Community Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$6 MILLION GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO HELP CHARITY FEED MORE NEEDY PEOPLE

Environment Minister Mark Speakman and Minister for Family and Community Services Brad Hazzard have welcomed the opening of a new food distribution centre that helps feed needy and hungry people across NSW and the ACT.

NSW Governor General David Hurley officially opened the new Foodbank distribution centre at Glendenning in Sydney's west this morning.

The new centre is three times larger than its previous facility. Funding of \$5 million from the Department of Family and Community Services allowed Foodbank to purchase the land and helped build the centre.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority provided \$1.1 million through its Organics Infrastructure Program, (a program to build infrastructure needed to divert organic waste from landfill), which has enabled Foodbank to increase its refrigeration capacity, allowing it to store more fruit and vegetables.

Mr Hazzard said the increased capacity of the distribution centre showed how Government and NGOs could work successfully together to help families in need.

"The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government support for Foodbank is so strong that during the election campaign we promised extra funding to ensure Foodbank's new distribution centre in Western Sydney became a reality. We have delivered on that promise," Mr Hazzard said.

Mr Speakman said Foodbank helped more than 550 front line charities that provided food relief to people and families doing it tough.

"Foodbank does an amazing job feeding the needy and hungry, and the NSW Government's financial support will help the organisation reach many more disadvantaged Australians," Mr Speakman said.

Foodbank is a non-denominational, non-profit organisation that receives excess food and grocery products from farmers, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and the public, and makes them available to charities and community groups who feed the hungry.