



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE DATE: 8 AUGUST 2025

DEMOCRACY ON THE MOVE: NSW PARLIAMENT'S REGIONAL ROADSHOW COMES TO CESSNOCK

The Parliament of NSW is hitting the road throughout 2025 to amplify the voices and showcase the leadership of young people in regional communities. Cessnock has been chosen as one of six regional centres across the state to host a special outreach roadshow on Thursday, 14th of August.

High schools in Cessnock and the wider region have nominated outstanding students to participate in a Public Speaking Competition and a Youth Forum. The Public Speaking Competition gives senior students a platform to showcase their public speaking skills, while the Youth Forum invites discussion on key issues important to them. Together, these two events will provide the region's young people with an invaluable opportunity to develop skills, participate in democracy and build networks that will support them as future leaders in their community.

The NSW Legislative Council – the Upper House of the Parliament of NSW – introduced the roadshows in 2024 during its Bicentenary. Last year's roadshow visited Lismore, Port Macquarie, Armidale, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga and Batemans Bay and highlighted the desire of young people to be heard and engage in the democratic process.

President of the Legislative Council, the Hon. Ben Franklin MLC, said the Regional Roadshows present a fantastic opportunity to engage youth across regional NSW in shaping the future of our state.

“Investing in our regional youth is investing in the future of our democracy in New South Wales. Our Regional Roadshows will empower tomorrow's leaders by providing the platforms and networks they need to advocate for their communities.” Mr Franklin said.

Member for Cessnock, Mr Clayton Barr MP, added “This is a wonderful opportunity for local students to showcase their public speaking and leadership skills and to have their voices heard.”

“I am very pleased to see Cessnock as a host of these events, as it provides our local young people with the opportunity to present their ideas, develop skills, and participate in democracy.”

Parliament of NSW's 2025 Regional Roadshow has already travelled to Grafton, Queanbeyan, Tamworth and Griffith. The final stop is Orange.

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Please get in touch for filming/photography requests or to request interviews (remote beforehand, with in-person interviews available during the roadshow).

Cessnock Roadshow schedule (subject to change)

- **Location:** Cessnock Leagues Club, 1 Darwin St, Cessnock NSW 2325
- **Date:** Thursday, 14th August 2025
- **Public Speaking Competition:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- **Youth Forum:** 5:30pm – 7:00pm