



MEDIA RELEASE

NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

The Parliament of NSW is hitting the road throughout 2025 to amplify the voices and showcase the leadership of young people in regional communities. Orange has been chosen as one of six regional centres across the state to host a special outreach roadshow on Thursday, 25th of September.

High schools in Orange 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 Orange, Mr Phil Donato MP, added “I'm thrilled that Orange has been chosen to host this year's Regional Roadshow. It's a fantastic opportunity for our local young people to showcase their skills, share their perspectives, and see firsthand how their voices can shape decision-making in our state. These students are the leaders of tomorrow, and this event will give them the confidence and connections to make a real difference in their communities.”

“It's important that rural and regional students have the same chance to engage with Parliament as their city peers, and this roadshow delivers exactly that.”

Parliament of NSW's 2025 Regional Roadshow has already travelled to Grafton, Queanbeyan, Tamworth, Griffith and Cessnock.

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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).

Orange Roadshow schedule (subject to change)

- **Location:** Orange Ex-Services' Club, 231-243 Anson St, Orange NSW 2800
- **Date:** Thursday, 25th of September 2025
- **Public Speaking Competition:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- **Youth Forum:** 5:30pm – 7:00pm