



# MEDIA RELEASE

## NSW LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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MEDIA RELEASE DATE: 2 APRIL 2025

### **DEMOCRACY ON THE MOVE: NSW PARLIAMENT'S REGIONAL ROADSHOW COMES TO QUEANBEYAN**

The Parliament of NSW is hitting the road throughout 2025 to amplify the voices and showcase the leadership of young people in regional communities. Queanbeyan has been chosen as one of six regional centres across the state to host a special outreach roadshow on 9 April.

High schools in Queanbeyan 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 NSW Parliament – 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 that Regional Roadshow 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 Roadshow will empower tomorrow's leaders by providing the platforms and networks they need to advocate for their communities.” Mr Franklin said.

Member for Monaro, Mr Steve Whan, added, “Democracy thrives when young people are actively involved, and this roadshow is a fantastic way to ensure students from our region are part of the conversation. I’m very pleased to see Queanbeyan hosting this event and look forward to hearing the ideas and perspectives our young leaders bring to the table.”

NSW Parliament's 2025 Regional Roadshow has already travelled to Grafton last week. The next stops are Tamworth, Griffith, Cessnock and 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).*

**Queanbeyan Roadshow schedule (subject to change)**

- **Location:** Queanbeyan Performing Arts Centre, 253 Crawford St, Queanbeyan NSW 2620
- **Date:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> of April 2025
- **Public Speaking Competition:** 2:00pm – 4:00pm
- **Youth Forum:** 5:30pm – 7:00pm