



## MEDIA RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Democracy on the move: Port Macquarie to host community forum as part of NSW Parliament's regional outreach tour

Port Macquarie has been chosen as one of six regional centres across NSW to host a special outreach roadshow on 10 and 11 April. The Parliament of NSW is hosting these events to hear directly from regional communities to imagine a robust parliamentary democracy for the future, and empower young people in their leadership journey.

Headlining the roadshows is a special Community Forum on 10 April led by a panel discussion between Member for Port Macquarie Leslie Williams MP and 2020 NSW Young Australian of the Year, founder of *Deadly Science* and Port Macquarie local Corey Tutt OAM, Port Macquarie Hastings Council Councillor Nik Lipovac as well as Kate Wood-Foye, External Engagement Director at Charles Sturt University Port Macquarie.

President of the NSW Legislative Council Ben Franklin MLC said that this year's Bicentenary of the Legislative Council – Australia's very first legislature – presents a fantastic opportunity to bring together Parliament, local community leaders and emerging young voices in our regions to join a conversation to forge democracy's future in NSW.

"Our vibrant and diverse regions are the heart and soul of democracy in NSW, whether through councils, schools, community groups, small businesses or youth organisations," Mr Franklin said.

"We are taking Parliament to regions across NSW hear your ideas, hopes and aspirations for parliamentary democracy now and into the future. While the roadshow will culminate with this community forum, the roadshow will also include a school public speaking competition and youth forum. This suite of events will provide the region's young people with the valuable networks and platform to support them as future leaders and as a voice for their community.'

Mrs Williams said the Community Forum offers a unique platform for local residents to come together in the spirit of community to participate in an inspiring and forward-looking dialogue with parliamentary and local leaders.

"As one of the state's fastest-growing regions, Port Macquarie is a perfect host for exchanging ideas and imagining pathways for building a robust democracy for the future. I encourage everyone from communities across the Port Macquarie region to come along, contribute your voice and be part of the conversation," Mrs Williams said.

**The NSW Parliament Roadshow Community Forum is free and takes place on Wednesday 10 April 2024 at 6:30pm at the Theatre, Charles Sturt University (Port Macquarie Campus).**

For more information about Community Forum and to reserve a spot, visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/866083939377>

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