

# George, Bird united in support of Opposition team

## LOCAL REACTION

THE region's two federal Labor politicians have thrown their weight behind Kevin Rudd, just 24 hours after labelling the leadership challenge inappropriate. Throsby MP Jennie George and Cunningham MP Sharon Bird congratulated the Opposition's new leadership team, Mr. Rudd and Julia Gillard, despite having earlier backed Kim Beazley to remain in the top job. "It is crucial now for the Australia Labor Party to move forward in a strong and united way to ensure the defeat of the Howard Government. We are committed to ripping up John Howard's unfair and divisive industrial relations laws," the pair said in a joint statement.

South Coast Labour Council secretary Arthur Rorris called on Labor to unite behind Mr. Rudd to provide "working Australian families a strong and viable alternative to John Howard".

"The Labor caucus has made its decision and Mr. Rudd has to now strengthen Labor's credentials on the industrial relations issue," he said.

Illawarra Business Chamber CEO Mark Grimson said the new team needed to improve federal Labor's "uninspiring and backward-looking" workplace relations policies.