

# Tony Windsor MP

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## Media Release

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### **Show sincerity to Regional Forum Report by funding National Equine Centre - Windsor**

Federal Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has said that the real test of the sincerity and integrity of the recently released New England North West Regional Forum Report was the Federal Government's funding of the National Equine Centre.

Mr Windsor said the Equine Centre concept fitted perfectly with all of the guidelines set out in the report delivered to Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson by Chairman of the Forum, Professor John Chudleigh.

"The \$14M project has the support of all user groups, the local community and Council, the New South Wales State Government, interstate equine and livestock organisations as well as the support of international horse event organisers," Mr Windsor said.

"All that is now required is the Federal Government to fund the final \$3.5M.

The State Government has agreed to its share of \$3.5M. Tamworth City Council has agreed to participate and loan funds have been organised," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor, a member of the Committee set up to assess the feasibility of the National Equine Centre was optimistic that the final funding leg would be met.

"If the rhetoric expressed in the Forum last year and the document as presented to John Anderson stand for anything, the Equine Centre should get the green light.

Mr Windsor urged the Federal Government to expedite its decision making process so the project could proceed as quickly as possible.

"There is a window of opportunity that needs to be kept open by a positive timely answer.

The already committed National, International and Local user groups need to be given the ability to plan their future events in the knowledge that this facility will become available for use at a specified time in the near future, otherwise they will have to commit to other arrangements at lesser quality venues," Mr Windsor said.

**Further information from Tony Windsor on 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**