

Tony Windsor MP

Federal Member for New England
PO Box 963 Tamworth NSW 2340

Ph (02) 6761 3080

Fax (02) 6761 3380

Email Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

Media Release

8th February 2002

Windsor to be sworn in on Tuesday

Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor will be sworn in next Tuesday at the first sitting of the Federal Parliament since the Federal election three months ago.

Mr Windsor will be one of 20 new members in the 40th Australian Parliament and will join fellow Country Independents, Peter Andren (Calare – NSW) and Bob Katter (Kennedy – Nth Qld) on the cross benches to run the ball up for country Australians.

“The last three months has been a great preparation for the time ahead in representing the people of the New England electorate.

It has given me the opportunity of getting around the electorate as the Member and getting first hand input from community members on Federal matters and hear what they would like to have occur in the future,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor will be focussing his efforts on improving health and education services and addressing the inequities that exist for country Australians in accessing them and accessing job opportunities through economic development of the country.

“National Competition Policy and the economic rationalist approach of the Government must be reviewed and put in to a context that takes smallness, remoteness and distance into account.

If the Government doesn’t address Competition Policy, then we will all end up being rationalised to large metropolitan areas on the coast in feedlots creating more social and environmental problems than exist already,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says that Australia must implement policies that will see growth across the entire nation, not just along the coast.

“We have a vast productive inland that is being overlooked by the current policy mix and therefore withering on the vine for lack of attention and long term commitment to growing it.

This is the message that I will be taking from the people of the New England Electorate to Canberra and will continue to seek recognition of through every avenue available to me as the Federal Member.

I look forward to the challenge ahead and the support and input of the people of the New England electorate as we seek to share in the economic and social growth of Australia,” Mr Windsor said.

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