

## **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](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)**

## **Media Release**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2002**

### **Room to grow in the country Bob - Windsor**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has criticised NSW Premier Bob Carr for his Sydney-centric view of the population debate.

Mr Carr has disagreed with any population increase on the basis of the impact it would have on Sydney.

Mr Windsor said that contrary to popular view, Sydney need not be the centre of the universe and any population increases if correctly planned could be targeted to other parts of Australia that could withstand an increase.

The recent Population Summit held in Melbourne on Australia's population highlighted that there wasn't a real plan in place.

Mr Windsor said that the recent incursions by illegal immigrants had also highlighted the need to do some real thinking about our future.

Mr Windsor instanced the vast productive black soil plains of North Queensland and the enormous supplies of water that the Fitzroy River in Western Australia as potential population growth areas.

"If we believe that others in the world won't look wantingly at our sparsely settled land over the next 100 years, we are kidding ourselves.

Mr Windsor also said that the Carr and Howard Governments should also look at the unused or under utilised infrastructure in New South Wales and other parts of Australia to target immigration.

"Whilst Sydney is growing, most country towns are either stagnant or declining in population.

These trends can be reversed," Mr Windsor said.

**Further information from Tony Windsor on 0427 66 8868 or 0412 916 040**