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Give credit where credit's due Mr Slack Smith - Windsor

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has expressed dismay and disappointment at comments made in the New South Wales Parliament by Member for Barwon, Ian Slack Smith relating to the proposed National Equine Centre in Tamworth.

Mr Slack Smith alleged that the New South Wales Government had acted "economically irresponsibly" by offering to fund the equine centre "by just throwing in the money and not assessing its viability."

"As the Member of Parliament who negotiated twice with the Premier and senior officers of the NSW Treasurers office as well as State and Regional Development assessment officers, I resent the allegation.

To suggest that the NSW Government has not adequately assessed this project is blatantly incorrect.

Mr Slack Smith seems not to know that the Federal Government funded the independent Sinclair Knight Merz feasibility study that the State Government assessed and to which gave the green light," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor reminded Mr Slack Smith that this centre is of National significance and would involve many people who reside in his electorate.

"To attack the only Government that has committed to funding their side of the bargain in some sort of weird attempt to defend the Federal Government for not funding it demonstrates the very low ebb to which some National Party MPs have drifted.

In the meetings I had with Premier Carr, he made it quite clear and rightly so, that the State Government would not support a white elephant and that the Government would consider the Sinclair Knight Merz Report.

Having assessed the report, Treasury gave it the green light.

For Ian Slack Smith to accuse the NSW Government of economic irresponsibility is not only showing his ignorance of the facts, but demeaning to the many equine industry representatives across Australia who have supported this initiative," Mr Windsor said.

For further information ring Tony Windsor on 0427 66 8868