



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Windsor to suspend Standing Orders to bring on Zonal Taxation Debate**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will next week suspend Standing Orders to bring on the Zonal Taxation debate he has had on the notice paper for 3 sitting weeks.

Mr Windsor moved “that in light of the NSW Farmers Association City-Country Snapshot Report showing the growing divide between city and country and the new 10 year discriminatory US Farm Bill, this House discuss as a matter of urgency the adoption of zonal taxation proposals as put forward by the National Farmers Federation, The Institute of Chartered Accountants and Local Government Association as a way of overcoming the population drift, economic decline and inequity of services of country Australia.”

“Since moving my motion, the 2001 Census figures have been released and the trend for the country has continued on a downward spiral.

We now have up-to-date information confirming what many country people have been saying for a long time about declining population and income levels in country centres particularly those west of the Great Dividing Range,” Mr Windsor said.

The debate of Mr Windsor’s motion will send a challenge to Governments, both Federal and State to take affirmative action to stem the decline identified by the 2001 Census.

“Governments, both Federal and State have been neglecting country areas and through their inaction and economic rationalist policies have contributed to the exodus of people to larger regional centres, the coast and metropolitan areas.

The Federal Parliament can and should take a lead in addressing this major problem that Australia faces as a nation,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is looking forward to all country members of the Federal Parliament being able to contribute to the debate

“I look forward to National Party members, country Liberals and country Labor members supporting my motion, focussing on the issue and identifying positive actions to be implemented in the short and long term so that country Australia can take its place beside city Australia.

If country members of the Federal Parliament cannot put down their party allegiances and take a bipartisan approach then country Australians will know that their representatives are letting them down and should be dealt with accordingly at the ballot box,” Mr Windsor said.

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