



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Windsor supports Premier's Environment Levy proposal

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is supporting the introduction of an Environment Levy as proposed by NSW Premier Bob Carr in his address to the NSW Farmers Association Conference in Sydney yesterday.

Premier Carr proposed a National Environment Levy be added to the existing Medicare Levy as was used for the Gun Buyback Scheme raising \$500m and as was proposed to fund Australia's commitment to East Timor.

Mr Windsor also proposed a National Environment Levy as part of his election campaign last year.

"A National Environment Levy was part of my Election platform as a means of spreading the burden of environmental change across all of Australia.

"\$1 per week from all Australians raises \$1 billion per year," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor recently raised this issue in Federal Parliament with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Warren Truss during the Budget debate.

"Minister Truss said he would give consideration to the issue raised during this debate," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also said that National Party Deputy Speaker, Ian Causley chaired a Committee of the Federal Parliament in its last term that suggested an Environment Levy should be considered.

"I'm aware that Mr Anderson is reluctant to take any notice of me, however he should start to listen to his own MPs and his constituents including the NSW Farmers Association.

Mr Anderson has to realise that other people can have good ideas too and rather than denigrate the Premier of NSW, he should embrace the concept and improve upon it.

Mr Anderson has been whinging about Premier Carr's policy on water for years.

Now that the Premier makes a move to address the issue and fund it by way of levy, suddenly Premier Carr's idea is not a good one," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes Mr Anderson's comments about the levy are somewhat hypocritical.

"Mr Anderson supported a levy on irrigators to pay for adjustment in the Namoi Groundwater issue – why not ask all Australians to bare some of the burden to fix our environmental problems.

Mr Anderson says quite often that he supports the recommendations of the Namoi Groundwater Taskforce – well one of the recommendations was to investigate the use of a National Environment Levy to assist with environmental change.

What's the difference Mr Anderson? – Talk about hypocrisy!," Mr Windsor said.

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