



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Office 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1800 66 8855
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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There is a solution to Inverell/Glen Innes Airline Crisis

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has said that he will be putting a strategy together in conjunction with the communities of Inverell, Glen Innes and Severn Shire Councils to ensure ongoing air services to those areas.

Mr Windsor said that the timing of the announcement by QantasLink was unfortunate as the festive break gave little opportunity for the communities to regroup in terms of service provision.

Mr Windsor said he would be suggesting to the communities a strategy based on the following:

1. The need for an extension of the existing service beyond 17 January to allow a solution to be developed.
2. The need for Qantas to come to the table regarding larger aircraft into Tamworth Airport so that a more viable Inverell/Glen Innes timetable could be put in place.
3. The need for a follow up meeting to the February meeting between the Minister for Transport and Regional Services, John Anderson, and the Mayors of Inverell, Glen Innes and Severn Shire Councils along with myself which determined that the service would be continued "indefinitely".
4. The same meeting suggested that the communities be involved in the type of service and the timetabling etc.
5. Mr Windsor said he would also contact the NSW Member for Lachlan, Ian Armstrong. Mr Armstrong had been constructively vocal on the need for equity and access for regional communities to airline services.

Mr Windsor said there seems to be a pattern developing across country Australia of the "unwanted air routes". There may well be a need to identify these areas and develop a solution that applies to these routes.

"If that solution requires some form of government assistance then so be it."

"Airline access for professional people into our country towns is an essential service, not a luxury, as is the need for country people to access their capital city by air," Mr Windsor concluded.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868