



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Windsor supports Rick Farley's Australia Day call for an Environment Levy**

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has come out in support of the sentiments expressed by former National Farmers Federation Chief Executive Officer, Rick Farley, in his Australia Day address.

Mr Farley announced that he believed Australia needed to put in place an Environment Levy paid for by all Australians to create a meaningful fund for environmental remediation work in the areas of salinity, acid soils and water quality.

Mr Windsor said the proposal also included the establishment of an Independent Authority to administer the spending of the levy funds which would remove the politicisation of funding arrangement that have dogged previous plans.

Mr Windsor said he totally supported the concept and that during his time in the New South Wales Parliament he had conducted some market research with Sydney people which indicated they would be in favour of a transparent, well directed levy.

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

"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 raised this issue in Federal Parliament with the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Warren Truss during the Budget debate last year.

"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.

"Mr Farley's statements could be a rallying point to address concerns about the politicisation of the Natural Heritage Trust funds and the non recognition by some States of the proper use of National Action Plan funds. In light of Mr Farley's proposal, a structure could be put in place which will have a lasting effect," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor pledged to work with other like minded Members of the Federal Parliament to progress the issue and also called on New South Wales Premier Bob Carr to reiterate his support for the concept.

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