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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Bailey's comments disgraceful! Learning Centre a credit to Glen Severn Community**

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor has described comments about the Glen Severn Learning Centre by the National Party Candidate for Northern Tablelands, Peter Bailey as a disgrace and an example of the arrogance of the National Party.

"Mr Bailey's comment that Glen Innes doesn't deserve a learning centre is an absolute disgrace.

Who does Mr Bailey think he is telling the Glen Innes Community that they don't deserve something that they have identified as being a necessity for the future of their community.

The Glen Severn Learning Centre is a wonderful example of community co-operation between the Severn Shire Council, Glen Innes Council, TAFE, UNE and the broader community which focuses on delivering a piece of education infrastructure to a community that has been losing many of its youth population and other people wanting to further their education to places where such facilities and services are available.

Mr Bailey has been using population decline as a big part of his election campaign and now he is knocking a community for doing something positive to stop this.

For Mr Bailey to denigrate the efforts of so many Glen Severn community members is astonishing when he is trying to win the seat from the Independent Member Richard Torbay who has achieved so much when asked for his help," Mr Windsor said.

Further, Mr Windsor wonders whether Mr Bailey has any contact with his Federal Coalition colleagues as to their opinion of the Glen Severn Learning Centre.

"Mr Bailey obviously hasn't spoken with Senator John Tierney who has spoken in glowing terms in the Senate about the Glen Severn Learning Centre and how it could be a model for other regional communities in using technology to deliver education to those unable or not wanting to move from their home towns.

In fact, the University of New England, a major partner in the Glen Severn Learning Centre has provided funding through a Federal Government program to establish outreach campuses so Mr Bailey is also completely out of touch with the Federal Coalition Policy that commendably is encouraging the development of learning facilities like the Glen Severn one," Mr Windsor said.