



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2003

PROJECTS IN NEW ENGLAND ELECTORATE RECEIVE FUNDING UNDER REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, announced today he has received advice from the Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, the Hon Wilson Tuckey, MP, that two regional tourism projects in the New England Electorate will receive funding under the Regional Assistance Programme.

Mr Windsor has been advised the New England North West Regional Development Board will receive \$99,000 towards the development of the food and wine industry in the New England and North West Region. The Board's project is aimed at strengthening the local food and wine industry through regional branding, promotion and marketing, network and database development and new product development.

"The New England and North West region is one of Australia's premier agricultural districts, capable of supporting a vast array of boutique agricultural products. This project will assist with industry diversification by enhancing the delivery, marketing and cross promotion of food and wine tourism in NSW," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has also been advised the New England Ecotourism Society Inc will receive assistance of \$42,280 towards the Waterfall Way Walking Track Zone 3 Survey Project.

"This project will create ecotourism business and employment opportunities by mapping and signposting that part of the Waterfall Walking Track that runs from the Wollombi Gorge to Point Lookout on the edge of the New England National Park.

"The project will also identify and develop a one day walking experience catering to all standards of walkers, as well as track notes and a walkers' guide for a 3-5 day trek for more experienced walkers," he said.

Mr Windsor congratulated the New England North West Regional Development Board and the New England Ecotourism Society upon their successful applications and wished both organisations every success with these excellent regional tourism initiatives.

Mr Windsor noted that from 1 July, 2003 the Regional Assistance Programme will become part of the Regional Partnerships Programme. Further information regarding Regional Partnerships can be obtained from the New England/North West Area Consultative Committee, telephone 6766 4866 or from Mr Windsor's Electorate Office, Ph 6761 3080.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph 6761 3080