



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

23 May 2003

WINDSOR TO RAISE ISSUE OF REGIONAL AIRPORT SECURITY IN PARLIAMENT

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, will raise the issue of regional airport security in the Federal Parliament next week.

Mr Windsor said recent events had heightened the possibility of terrorist activity in Australia and that it was becoming increasingly evident that country airports were obvious access routes to aircraft for terrorists.

“If it is decided by the Government that Australians are at risk from terrorist activity, why is it that only the city airports are being screened for weapons and explosives,” Mr Windsor asked.

“Is it that country people are of less value or is it that the Government is only paying lip service to the threat?”

“Why would a terrorist bother trying to evade security at a metropolitan airport when a short drive in the country will allow direct access to aircraft that could be used against city targets?”

Mr Windsor said the issue of regional security had been raised in Parliament last year by some country MPs, particularly the Member for Braddon, Sid Sidebottom, but to no avail with the Government arguing that only certain grades of airport needed security measures.

“I will be speaking with other concerned MPs to have this issue brought to a head,” he said.

“To allow country commuters to be at greater risk than their city cousins is inexcusable,” Mr Windsor concluded.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080