



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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WINDSOR URGES LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUP TO LOBBY ON ROADS TO RECOVERY

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, raised the issue of Roads to Recovery funding with the New England Local Government Group (NELG) in Armidale this week.

Mr Windsor urged the mayors of New England to get on the front foot in relation to the maintenance of the Roads to Recovery Program beyond 2005.

The four year Program is in its third year and is currently under review as part of the Auslink Land Transport Planning process that the Government has put in place.

“Roads to Recovery has been a very successful Federal Government program with a simple focus of direct line funding from the Commonwealth Government to local government with local government making the decisions as to where to spend the money,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said he believed that local government could drive the agenda in relation to the future of Roads to Recovery. Strong representations at local, state and federal conferences were made this year.

“If councils wait until they receive an agenda from the Commonwealth they may well find that the bureaucracy has clawed back control of the funds under the new Auslink document.

“This could undermine probably the most successful local roads programs Australia has seen,” Mr Windsor said.

“In terms of the tax take from fuel excise at the bowser, Roads to Recovery represents less than 1.5 cents per litre out of 38 cents per litre so any attempt to reduce that amount or change the way it is administered should be resisted.”

“Local government has the whip hand on this issue and should start using it to advantage country residents,” Mr Windsor concluded.

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