



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor Calls For Solidarity In Rail Campaign

The Independent Member for the New England, Tony Windsor, has pledged his support to the Member for the Northern Tablelands, Richard Torbay, and the Mayor of Armidale, Brian Chetwynd, in helping their efforts to maintain a rail service to Armidale.

Mr Windsor said, "The proposed removal of services on nine routes in NSW is an attack on the viability of Inland NSW and as such should be opposed by the entire community."

"If the NSW Government is allowed to get away with this process it will weaken the argument against future attempts at service cuts, a stand must be taken by everyone against this process."

Mr Windsor called for all country organisations to get behind the campaign.

"The NSW Shires Association, NSW Farmers Association, Country Women's Association and the Isolated Parents Association are all examples of highly credible country organisations that could assist with the lobbying process."

"This is an issue where all country people need to support each other, if this is done effectively I believe a reversal of the decision can be achieved."

Mr Windsor said, "The effect of the changes would have an enormous impact on many people across NSW, these impacts have not been examined or understood by the Government at this time."

"The issue of service closures was raised with me at a Legacy meeting over the weekend at Armidale where concerned Legacy Widows spoke about the comparison in terms of comfort of the train seats compared to the coach seats and the need of older people to be able to move around the train."

Mr Windsor also questioned the data being used by Minister Costa in relation to the economies of providing passenger services.

"All country people should express their outrage at these arbitrary decisions," Mr Windsor concluded.

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