



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL 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
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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Northwest Farming Community Waits On NRAC

The Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor MP, is supporting the request currently before the Federal National Rural Advisory Committee (NRAC) to extend the same assessment criteria that currently applies to Moree West croppers to the entire North West EC area.

Mr Windsor said, "The proposal currently before NRAC is an attempt to bring all northwestern farmers into the same assessment criteria as Moree West. This appears to be a sensible proposition given the inability of most north western croppers to access loans and interest rate subsidies under current E.C measures. This proposition would allow farmers confidence to continue with a reasonable level of business activity within their community and encourage a quick restart to cropping activities when weather conditions permit."

"Winter crop harvest is a crucial part of the north-western economic cycle and unfortunately the current harvest will not contribute at the level local businesses need due to recent frost damage and poor planting conditions. These businesses will also suffer due to the inability of many farmers to commit to a summer crop due to inadequate moisture profiles and NRAC need to be aware that this proposed extension will help the entire region."

"The inability of NRAC to consider the whole community is an issue that needs to be addressed by the national drought review process", concluded Mr Windsor.

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

FIGURE 1.1: The EC Area

- WEST OF MOREE
 " " OF NEWELL HIGHWAY
 GRANTED FULL EC BOTH CROPPERS + STOCK
 NORTH-WEST EC Area
 November, 2002
 - ONLY STOCK ENTERPRISES GRANTED FULL EC. CROPPERS - STILL WAITING



- RLPB Boundaries
- Towns
- Roads
- Rivers
- Lakes, Dams
- Walgett EC Area
- North-West EC Area



NSW Agriculture
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0 50 100 150 200 250 Kilometers