



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

13 November 2003

### **Vision New England Summit Writes To NSW Premier And NSW Transport Minister**

The Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor MP, has written on behalf of the 66 organisations represented at Vision New England Summit to NSW Premier, Bob Carr and the NSW Minister for Transport Services, Michael Costa, requesting that passenger rail services be retained and that the recommendations regarding CountryLink services in the Parry Report into the Future of Transport Services, be overruled on the basis that the Parry Report did not consider any "Public Good" considerations.

The correspondence includes a list of all the organisations represented by the 100 delegates.

Mr Windsor said, "The organisations at the Summit were scathing in their criticism of the lack of consideration of the significant public good issues that should have been examined thoroughly when recommending such a drastic a move as abandoning rail services. Rail is a far more friendly service for people with physical disabilities or those with energetic children and the Parry Report is has not considered these issues."

"Examination of the current costs and marketing of the passenger rail services will yield a result that works for everyone and I hope the Premier and Transport Services Minister will add these representations to the considerable support already in place for the retention of these services."

The following motion was unanimously passed by the Summit:

*That the Vision New England Summit supports the retention of passenger rail services to country NSW and in particular, urge the Premier of NSW, the Hon Bob Carr MP, to overrule the Options for the Future Interim Report by Dr Tom Parry, (Ministerial Inquiry) which recommends that CountryLink services from Armidale to Tamworth be discontinued, as well as other services in country NSW on the basis that Dr Parry's Report does not take into account public good issues.*

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