



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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WINDSOR CALLS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT HIDDEN AGENDA ON FORCED AMALGAMATIONS

Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has called on local government areas within the Electorate to form a united approach to the amalgamation issue to fight against the State Government's hidden agenda of forced amalgamation.

Mr Windsor's comments follow a change in direction in terms of Local Government facilitator, Chris Vardon's role by holding discussions with the Guyra community.

"I am totally supportive of Guyra Council's view to remain as is and all other Councils who believe that the word 'local' should mean something in local government," Mr Windsor said.

"I find it hard to comprehend that Mr Vardon would need to speak with Guyra when to my knowledge Guyra Council has not made any submission for change to the Boundaries Commission."

"One wonders what sort of process the State Government is running here, one agenda one minute, another the next."

"Amalgamation of local government boundaries is something that should be handled at the local level, not in the machiavellian fashion as seems to be happening at the moment," Mr Windsor concluded.

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