



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
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

MEDIA RELEASE

21 November 2003

WINDSOR TO SEEK CLARIFICATION ON COUNCIL FUNDING ISSUE FROM FEDERAL MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, will make inquiries with the Federal Minister for Local Government, Senator the Hon Ian Campbell, as to any changes that may occur to Federal grant funding for Local Government Councils.

Mr Windsor's query follows assertions made to members of the Guyra community at the recent consultancy meetings that Guyra Council's viability was questioned on the basis of perceived threats of Federal Government funding cutbacks.

"I find it quite extraordinary that a member of the NSW Local Government Review Panel would make such comments to Guyra Councillors and members of the community," Mr Windsor said.

"I can only see this sort of comment as some form of attempt to scare residents into concern about the future viability of their local government area," he said.

"Nonetheless, I will seek clarification from Senator Campbell when Parliament resumes next week as to any intentions that the Federal Government may have in terms of the current amalgamation debate in NSW."

"To my knowledge the Federal Government's views on funding grants to local government have not changed and are not distributed on the basis of big councils being favoured over smaller councils."

"Once Senator Campbell has clarified the situation I will let concerned councils and citizens know of any proposed changes," Mr Windsor concluded.

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