



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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### **Nats Avoid The Issues Again**

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, has criticised the National Party for its duplicity on issues affecting country people. Mr Windsor was responding to recent criticisms made by the New England Electoral Council's Bryan Pape to the effect that New England is missing out on its 'fair share of the pie'.

Mr Windsor said, "Not only is the National Party factually incorrect on this issue, they continually run the rhetoric in country areas that they stick up for the bush, however their behaviour in Parliament is often at odds with the rhetoric".

#### **Telstra**

"The National Party voted to sell the Telstra pie with scant protection for regional communities and in complete opposition to the wishes of regional communities."

"The Independents and minor parties, along with the Opposition, have blocked this sale and are working for better outcomes for regional communities."

#### **Regional Universities**

"The National Party voted to allocate less money to regional universities, the Independents and minor parties are currently working to change this."

#### **Medicare/Bulk-Billing**

"Bulk-billing in New England has declined by 15% in just seven years, the National Party's response to this has been to vote for a second rate \$900 million dollar package. This package has had to be improved by the intervention of the Independents and minor parties to the tune of an additional \$1.5 billion dollars. Why did the National Party vote for a second rate package?"

#### **More Pie?**

"The National Party says it wants more pie for New England however it will not vote for more pie when the opportunity presents, the hard regional yards are being made by Independents and the minor parties".

"The National Party has attempted to duck these issues by being critical of my voting record and getting personal, my response is to say my Parliamentary voting record is there for anyone to see."

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“The National Party has cynically included gag motions in the figures they have massaged for their media stunt on Friday. As many will be aware, I do not vote to support the Government procedurally stopping Parliamentary debate, particularly ‘gag’ motions where the Government attempts to stop a Member of Parliament expressing concerns over legislation.”

The figures from this current Parliamentary session are as follows:

<b>Procedural</b>	<b>22 votes, eg gag motions, suspend standing orders and MPI's</b>
<b>Government Substantive</b>	<b>17 votes</b>
<b>Opposition Substantive</b>	<b>5 votes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>44 votes</b>

“The Nationals need to focus on representing country people and stop massaging the figures and making personal attacks in the hope that the real issues will simply go away, the real issues along with Country Independents are here to stay,” finished Mr Windsor.

***As time permits voting figures for the whole of this Parliament to date will be forwarded to all media***