



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

10 December 2003

Federal Coalition Says No Alcohol In Parliament / Put It On The Streets Instead

Windsor calls on Carr to convene a council of those opposed to Treasurer Costello overriding public policy in NSW

The Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, expressed his amazement at Treasurer Costello's demands that NSW allow the sale of alcohol in virtually any retail environment. The Federal Parliamentary bar has remained shut for several years due to the disapproval expressed by this Government at the problems the ready availability of alcohol was causing in the Parliamentary building.

Mr Windsor said, "In the light of the problems that the ready availability of alcohol is supposed to have caused in the Parliamentary precinct, it is an unusual move by the same Government to want alcohol available on every street corner. This is just one of many public policy 'overrides' that the Federal Treasurer has demanded of NSW and I have asked the NSW Premier to convene a council of the leaders of affected groups."

"Our country communities have pioneered alcohol accords that bind pubs and clubs into regular meetings with local licensing police and rigidly observed agreements on the sale and oversight of venues where alcohol is consumed. This has been a sensible process that has led to a positive reduction in aggravating and at times criminal behaviour. The sale of alcohol at every street corner defeats these alcohol accords by encouraging consumption outside of these venues."

"Claims by the National Competition Council that no satisfactory public interest cause has been presented are misleading, history has shown that the NCC refuses to assess social change management impacts in their assessment process."

"Effectively the NCC's Public Interest Test (PITs) is just that, it is the pits of public policy a name only, with no genuine public policy impact review procedure really available."

"Costello needs to stop hiding behind the NCC and comment on the social impacts of his latest foray into regional policy," concluded Mr Windsor.

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