



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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New England will be winner from ARTC agreement Now take up option to Boggabilla to get Inland Rail link happening

The electorate of New England will be one of the big winners in the recently announced ARTC agreement struck by the NSW State Government and the Federal Government.

“Contrary to views expressed by the Liberal Party candidate, Scott MacDonald that the electorate was missing out, the town of Werris Creek, part of the New England, is a key ingredient in the proposed Inland Rail Network.

The ARTC agreement is about establishing a national freight corridor and the funding for the upgrade of rail from the Hunter Valley to Werris Creek and Cootamundra to Werris Creek.

This will enable more efficient future development of rail based activities in the New England and North West and is a step forward to the completion of the Inland Rail vision articulated by Everaldo Compton, the Chairman of ATEC (Australian Transport Energy Corridor),” Mr Windsor said.

In the ARTC agreement, Werris Creek becomes the key intersection of rail from Sydney via Newcastle north and from Melbourne via Cootamundra north.

Mr Windsor said the branch lines such as the Werris Creek – Armidale line would still be the responsibility of the NSW Government to fund even though management would be ceded to the ARTC.

“Close inspection of the ARTC agreement shows that the \$870 million announced is made of Federal Govt \$150m, NSW State Govt \$50m, Pacific National \$50m and debt (ARTC borrowings) \$620m,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also points out that in the ARTC lease agreement there is the option for ARTC to take up the Werris Creek to Boggabilla rail link whenever ARTC wants to at no further cost.

“I call on the ARTC to take up the option now and facilitate the Inland Rail project through to Darwin as quickly as possible.

The upgrading of the line north from Werris Creek and linking NSW through to Queensland at Boggabilla is a major step in truly having a National Freight link and one that has private enterprise backing.

The Werris Creek to Tennant Creek Inland Rail link will only be stymied further if the ARTC doesn't act quickly in taking up this option,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 88 68