



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Windsor Supports Call For Inclusion Of Country Homes In Solar Energy Trial**

The Independent Member for New England is supporting calls from New England Solar Power to extend the \$75 million solar city package to regional areas. The \$75 million solar cities package is included in yesterday's Securing Australia's Energy Future, this package completely ignores regional communities.

Mr Windsor said, "I have had an immediate response within the electorate to the exclusion of regional communities from the investment that renewable energy sources offer.

New England Solar Power who are running a seminar on renewable power in Moree tomorrow are justified in questioning why regional communities are missing out on the benefits that this package is able to offer by moving our communities into solar power.

I endorse the Government's efforts to protect jobs within the fossil fuels industry, however I feel that renewable fuels such as solar and wind power are being excluded in a negative way from the current policy position.

The Prime Minister has stated that these energy sources are over priced. The issue I take with this statement is new technology always struggles with pricing, however with usage the price drops dramatically. Clearly there is a case to support a change in our energy usage towards renewable fuels as fossil fuel reserves dwindle.

This change needs to occur gradually to allow a seamless transition to avoid disruptions to our economy. The protection of jobs within the fossil fuels sector can be managed at the same time as encouraging a shift to renewable fuels such as solar power and wind power.

The question that has to be asked is, are we as a nation going to lock our strategic future planning on energy into non renewable fuel sources such as coal and gas or are we going to have the vision to build replacements within the lifespan of the known fossil fuel reserves.

The solar cities package needs to be extended to include regional users," concluded Mr Windsor.

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