



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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National Party backflip on Glen Severn Learning Centre welcome Now announce the funding for Learning Centre & Equine Centre

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor has welcomed the backflip by the National Party on their support for the Glen Severn Learning Centre but says it's now time to stop dangling the carrot and show the community the money.

"It has taken a long time but I am very pleased to see the National Party support for the Glen Severn Learning Centre.

The former National Party Member for New England, Stuart St Clair was against the project in the lead up to the last Federal election in 2001 and the National Party candidate for the State seat of Northern Tablelands, Peter Bailey went so far as to say that Glen Innes did not even deserve a Learning Centre.

This was a disgrace at the time but the backflip by the National Party now just goes to show what political competition can do in helping to elevate worthwhile projects up the funding priority list," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has had meetings with the previous Glen Innes Council and the now Administrator Mr Frank Willan on getting the funding submission to the Area Consultative Committee into the acceptable form as well as having meetings with the Liberal Senator for the region, Senator John Tierney.

"Senator Tierney has always been helpful and positive about the project and given sound advice to me and to the Glen Innes Council in their attempts to meet the funding criteria.

Now that the National Party has had a change of heart with regard to the Glen Severn Learning Centre, I call on them to commit to funding this important community facility regardless of the outcome of the election.

To have a conversion on the road to an election is just amazing.

Well, 'show us the money' and prove the commitment to the project is more than just an election carrot," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that a similar situation exists with the funding for the National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth.

"The National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth has been around for as long as the Learning Centre and has received an untied State Government funding commitment of \$3.35million as well as Local Government, community and industry support.

The Federal Government knocked back an application despite this support for it both financially and morally.

It's time for these projects to get the recognition they deserve by an announcement of a commitment to fund them both – not just words of support from the candidate.

Talk's cheap, money provides community infrastructure," Mr Windsor said.

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