



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Where are the Nation building projects?**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has supported Inland Rail Chairman Everald Compton in his claims that there has been no major national infrastructure projects announcements that will help grow inland Australia and bring people back into country areas.

“Everald Compton is right.

Neither the Coalition nor the Labor Party has given any support to major infrastructure projects that could enhance opportunities in inland Australia.

There has been nothing announced by either side that could be described as ‘Nation building’ and it is very disappointing that with so much surplus, funding has not been invested into providing much needed infrastructure.

Projects like the upgrading of the Murrurundi Tunnel, reopening the rail line north of Armidale and rail links from Moree across the Queensland border to give easier access to the Port of Brisbane and further north along the line that will make up part of the Melbourne to Darwin line proposed by Mr Compton’s group – none have been mentioned in any possible funding of projects.

During the election campaign three years ago, the Leader of the National Party with much fanfare drove a stake into the ground near Goondiwindi where the site of a new rail bridge was to be constructed across the river to Queensland bridging the missing link for Mr Compton’s Inland Rail project.

Since then, Mr Compton’s great vision has stalled because of his having to wait for the slowness of a Minister to act rather than get on with the job.

If we as a nation do not invest in our future through ‘nation building’ projects when we have surplus funds, then we will be judged guilty of neglect by future generations when they say, ‘why didn’t our forefathers do this when they had the opportunity and the money to do it’ and I won’t blame them,” Mr Windsor said.