



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

29 October 2004

Windsor welcomes new Qld Nationals Senator

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the news that former New Englander now Queensland based Barnaby Joyce has been successful in winning the 6th Queensland Senate seat on the separate Queensland Nationals ticket.

“I congratulate Barnaby Joyce on his election to the Senate and wish him well.

It is particularly pleasing to see early indications of the Queensland Nationals Senator to not being just a rubber stamp for the Liberals.

I will certainly encourage and support him in his publicly stated position of not supporting ‘anything that will have an undue effect over rural and regional Australia’.

It won’t be an easy position for Mr Joyce as he will come under a lot of pressure from the Liberals and from within his own Party, but the Queensland Nationals have shown some free spirit in the past and country people are going to need Senators like Mr Joyce to look after THEIR best interests.

From his comments reported in the media, it appears that Senator (elect) Mr Joyce has a more realistic view of the needs of country people than his Tamworth-based NSW Senate colleague, Senator Sandy Macdonald who has already voted to sell Telstra each time it has been introduced into the Parliament,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is very concerned that the term “up-to-scratch” when used in describing Telstra services in the country has never really been defined and yet the Prime Minister, the Treasurer and others already believe Telstra services are “up-to-scratch”.

“Despite efforts to seek a definition of ‘scratch’, it has never been given a fully clear position.

The problem is not what is necessarily ‘up-to-scratch’ now, it is what will be ‘up-to-scratch’ in the future as technology improves and country people will be disadvantaged by the one thing that could remove the disadvantage of distance, smallness and remoteness – telecommunications services,” Mr Windsor said.