



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **New England Local Govt Group unanimously supports Feasibility for Inland Rail to include main Northern line**

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor met with the New England Local Government Group in Armidale today to discuss the proposed Inland Rail route from Melbourne to Brisbane and beyond with a view to putting the New England route up as a viable possibility.

The New England Local Government Group is made up of the Walcha, Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Glen Innes Severn, Inverell and Tenterfield Councils through which runs the existing New England rail corridor.

“I am delighted that the New England Local Government Group has unanimously supported that the feasibility study for the proposed Inland Rail link between Melbourne and Brisbane should also include a thorough investigation of the main Northern line from Werris Creek through Tamworth, Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes, Tenterfield and into Queensland at Wallangara.

Whilst the rail line currently only operates to Armidale, the corridor is still owned by the New South Wales Government through to Wallangara on the Queensland border and therefore has the potential to be re-opened and made use of without having to acquire land for use as a rail corridor as would be the case further west.

I will be working with NELG in putting a submission together asking that those undertaking the feasibility study look at the main Northern line as a possible route for the Inland Rail emphasising that it is a shorter route, with an existing corridor and a very stable ground structure compared with the black soils found on the western route.

There is certainly potential and it is important for everyone in the New England to look positively at this opportunity and work together to put our best case forward,” Mr Windsor said.