



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Vision New England Summit II – Setting Our Agenda

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has today announced that he will convene a second Vision New England Summit on Saturday August 6 in Armidale.

The theme for the second Vision New England is “Setting our agenda” and is being designed to enable people of the New England Electorate to set the agenda for issues of importance to the electorate and identifying possible solutions to these issues.

“The first Vision New England Summit held in October 2003 was attended by 100 people representing some 66 different groups from across the electorate of New England.

The Summit arrived at 23 resolutions most of which have had good progress made on addressing them one way or another,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is again inviting all community leaders and representatives of community groups from across the New England Electorate who has a role in improving social, environmental and economic aspects of the electorate to be part of Vision New England.

“Invitations will be sent to community groups to send a representative to Vision New England who can speak and make decisions on behalf of their group.

Political representatives from all three levels of Government will also be invited to attend regardless of their political persuasion. We will all have a role to play in driving the resolutions of Vision New England and therefore need to be in attendance to really get the message from the community.

If the people of the New England electorate give clear direction on an issue, then it is up to the political representatives to take these forward where there is a role and need for Government to be involved,” Mr Windsor said.

As part of the invitation to the Summit, a request is also being made to identify issues and suggest possible solutions which can then be discussed at the Summit.

“Community groups can bring their issues and solutions to the Summit and apart from making the attendees more aware of the issues of others these solutions can be given the support of the broader community which will provide added weight to the proposed solutions to then be able to access assistance through various avenues whether they come under Federal, State or Local jurisdiction.

Once again, Vision New England will be chaired by Clr John Wearne from Bingara with issues to be organised by an agenda committee and put into a document that will be circulated prior to the event so that groups can peruse, debate and decide how they want their representatives to respond on the various items for resolution on the day.

Vision New England will also be a great opportunity for people of the New England to set the agenda for their future and for their political representatives to get their riding instructions direct from the community who put them there,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868