



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Federal Government can save Brigalow Bioregion if it wants to

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has called on the Federal Government to use its powers to maintain existing use rights for the Brigalow Bioregion.

Mr Windsor's research indicates that the Federal Government has the power to save the sawmillers and the communities that have relied on the renewable timber resource within the region.

"The Federal Government can use the same legislative arrangements as are being used by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson to tie Federal funding to industrial relations requirements and the control of ports across the nation to wrest control of the Brigalow Bioregion from the New South Wales Government.

I agree with John Anderson when he says that the New South Wales Government is not only wrong on economic grounds but also on environmental grounds with their decision on the Brigalow Bioregion.

It is a decision that will eventually lead to the destruction of those woodlands through mismanagement of undergrowth and consequent 'hot wildfires'.

It is a decision that will crucify intergenerational timber getters some of whom have carried out commercial businesses for decades.

It is a decision that will have a devastating impact at a regional level embracing three Federal electorates – Gwydir, New England and Parkes.

It is a decision that the Federal Government can reverse.

I call on John Anderson and John Cobb to immediately intervene and forget about bashing New South Wales for political benefit and take control of the Brigalow Bioregion and return it to those who have managed that environment for over a century," Mr Windsor said.

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