



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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Windsor calls for Renewable Sustainable Energy Authority to set path for future energy needs

Independent member for New England, Tony Windsor has called on the Federal Parliament to establish a Renewable Sustainable Energy Authority to advance the pursuit of new energy sources and the development of existing energy sources for the future.

Mr Windsor is writing to the Prime Minister John Howard and all Members of Parliament and Senators requesting their consideration of the Authority and is working on a Private Members Bill to have the issue debated in the Parliament.

“Events of recent months in terms of high fuel prices, discussions relating to Biofuels and mounting evidence of global warming indicate the need for more pro-active policy development than has been the case in the past.

The introduction of renewable energy targets in 2001 by the current government has been seen by industry as a small step with very little power or incentive to drive the process.

The time has come for an Independent Authority to be established to advise Government and industry of the best outcomes for the future and how to get there.

The current arrangements are either industry specific, environmentally specific or driven by the parameters of political persuasion.

It is time for all groups to come together, recognise the economic, environmental and health aspects of sustainable energy and provide expert information to our Parliament and the public of the problems of today and solutions for tomorrow,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor wants the Renewable Sustainable Energy Authority to examine all possible sources of renewable energy including Biofuels, wind, solar, water and other developing technologies.

“Australia risks losing ground on this critical issue if we continue to tread water and pay lip service to the problems.

The lead time to establish any of these industries is in the decades and hence must be based on expert advice.

One only has to look at the recent debate on ethanol as example of policy on the run and the need for a more independent means of developing policy for our future energy needs.

Currently there is too much vested interest control of the debate in a political, industry and interest group sense.

The reliance on the market to solve our energy needs for the future is not working and is not taking into account climatic changes and global political changes.

Action is needed now and if Australia does not act we will always be beholden to others who have seen the long term benefits of investment in developing their renewable sustainable energy sources as we are currently to the world’s oil producers,” Mr Windsor said.

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