



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Windsor calls for strengthening CSIRO role and renews call for Renewable Sustainable Energy Authority

Tony Windsor MP Member for New England is calling for more resources to be given to the CSIRO for research rather than the possible cutting as indicated in a leaked CSIRO report showing possible cuts in funding for crop and livestock research and scaling back renewable energy research among the areas to be affected.

“The CSIRO has a critical role to play in increasing productivity in agriculture and developing technologies for future energy sources among its many activities.

One only has to see the contribution that the CSIRO at Chiswick near Armidale makes in its own right and in relationships with the University of New England and industry groups.

I will certainly be keeping a close eye on any moves that may affect CSIRO activities, particularly their activities at Chiswick and will work closely with all concerned there to ensure it continues long term in providing the very valuable research and support for industry that it does,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the leaked report smacked of desk top budgeting rather than addressing the needs of research.

“If the problem is lack of funding, then let us look at the massive government surplus to rectify the problem.

The leaked report gave an indication that research into renewable energy was also a concern and with the crucial role that agriculture will play in the development of ethanol and biofuels as viable energy sources, it is imperative that the CSIRO be adequately resourced to sew the seeds and meet the needs of our developing industries,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor in a speech to the Parliament today during the debate on the Energy Efficiencies Opportunities Bill 2005 said,

“There was a debate in the parliament yesterday (Tuesday) about the CSIRO. Our scientists need the freedom and the money to be able to look a long way out, further than the three-year term of a parliament or the short-term nature of the commercialised way in which we look at research. They need the opportunity to really look forward. If there are failures in terms of some of that research, so be it. I am yet to meet a person who has not failed in doing something. In research, particularly, we need to push the barriers in terms of our attitude to some of these energy sources.”

During the same speech, Mr Windsor renewed his call for the establishment of a Renewable Sustainable Energy Authority to advance the pursuit of new energy sources and the development of existing energy sources for the future.

“It is time for all groups to come together, recognise the economic, environmental and health aspects of sustainable energy and provides expert information to our Parliament and the public of the problems of today and solutions for tomorrow. Australia risks losing ground on this critical issue if we continue to tread water and pay lip service to the problems,” Mr Windsor said.

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