



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

21 December 2005

Meeting called to push Murrurundi Rail Tunnel through

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is convening a meeting of representatives of community groups and industry with an interest in seeing the construction of the Murrurundi Rail Tunnel take place to improve the rail transport infrastructure between the New England North West and the Port of Newcastle.

The meeting, to be held in early February, will bring together people from both sides of the Great Dividing Range to push ahead with the project sooner rather than later.

“As people would be aware, there have been some important developments relating to the coal industry north of the Liverpool Range and also Commonwealth Government initiatives to improve the North-South Rail corridors from Melbourne to Brisbane.

There is also a \$1m feasibility and planning study being undertaken into the Murrurundi Tunnel.

The importance of the Murrurundi Tunnel is paramount in terms of the freight economies of access to the Port of Newcastle,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says that there is a need for a united approach to ensure once the feasibility and planning study is complete that the commencement of works follows quickly.

“There is a great opportunity now to lobby for the construction of the Murrurundi Tunnel as an important link with the Inland Rail, whichever route it takes, providing better and more efficient access to the Newcastle/Sydney basin from the north and north-west,” Mr Windsor said.

The meeting will be co-hosted by the Newcastle & Hunter Business Chamber with whom Mr Windsor has been liaising over a number of years on this matter.

“The Newcastle & Hunter Business Chamber also views the delay in the tunnel’s construction as a major restrictor in the development of the Port of Newcastle and their associated industries.

The aim of the meeting is to put a group together to make a joint submission to the Consultants undertaking the Tunnel study and the North South Rail Corridor study.

I look forward to working with the group to help bring about a much needed piece of infrastructure that will see much business and employment opportunities realised,” Mr Windsor said.

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