



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

7 July 2006

Windsor to make submission to retain Gwydir

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will be making a submission to the Redistribution Committee for the retention of the Federal seat of Gwydir.

“As I have previously indicated, the loss of a country seat is disappointing in that country people are losing representation in the Parliament after the next election.

It is not good for people west of the Great Dividing Range to lose one of its voices in the Parliament regardless of who holds the seat.

I will be making a submission to the Redistribution Committee to review its recommendation to drop a seat west of the Divide and encourage them to look at a metropolitan seat where people needing the help of their Federal member only have to travel to the next suburb on public transport if need be, not go on a two day expedition,” Mr Windsor said.

Should the Redistribution Committee reverse its decision, Mr Windsor believes that the National Party should review its support of anti-country policies that have brought about the initial recommendation.

“If the Redistribution Committee overturns its initial recommendation to axe Gwydir, the National Party should view the new decision as a reprieve only and if they continue to support policies that continue the decline of country population, then they will only have themselves to blame when the next redistribution takes place.

It should also be seen by people living in seats west of the Great Divide that they need to look seriously at who will best represent them in the Parliament to turn people around to stay in the area and to attract others to come and bring their families.

The current National Party representation has not done this despite having the balance of power and I would encourage people in these seats to support candidates who will genuinely support them when it comes to the crunch and not just be lap dogs for the Liberals,” Mr Windsor said.