



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### WATER WRANGLE – FULL DISCLOSURE OF DOCUMENTS NEEDED

Member for New England, Tony Windsor, will call on the Prime Minister next week in Parliament to make available all documents relating to the communications between the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Government on the groundwater compensation tax issue.

Mr Windsor said that, given the Prime Minister's statements in Parliament on Wednesday, 7 September, 2006 and the inference that the State Government had deliberately written the "offer of compensation" agreement to groundwater entitlement holders, that all documents concerning the "offer" be made publicly available.

Mr Windsor said that although it was great news that the Prime Minister has finally recognised that 'these payments are in the nature of compensation for the withdrawal of a previously conferred water right' it was imperative that the way this document was put together becomes public so that it won't happen again.

Mr Windsor said he was aware of some of the documents relating to the agreement which indicated that the Prime Minister has possibly been misled by some MP's within the government on the fine details of negotiations.

"I believe the Prime Minister answered my question in Parliament on this matter with honesty given the level of detail that he had been briefed on but there is now a real need for all the detail to come out," Mr Windsor said.

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