



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TONY WINDSOR MP**  
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## Media Release

27 November 2006

### At it again! Politicisation of Austrade Awards demeaning

An invitation extended by Austrade to attend a workplace presentation around Bellata Gold being named a Finalist in the Australian Export Awards and accompanied by a message that the National Party candidate for Tamworth at the next state election will also be in attendance has Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor astonished over the politicisation – again – of good government programs.

“I am astonished that Austrade – a Federal Government agency - has sent out an invitation to attend an official Austrade function around the Bellata Gold company being named a Finalist in the Australian Export Awards accompanied by the comment that a National Party candidate for the next state election would also be attending.

I will be asking Austrade and the Minister for an explanation as to how this has happened and is it their normal protocol,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is also concerned that Bellata Gold is also allowing their company to be used as a platform for the National Party.

“Bellata Gold is a deserved recipient of Federal Government funding of \$576,000 through the Regional Partnerships Program to develop their business which has great potential.

Bellata Gold shouldn't feel the need to pay the piper – the Federal Government - by allowing their success to be used to promote a State candidate.

It is wrong for Austrade to be politicised and it is demeaning for Bellata Gold to allow such a use of their business when they have received their assistance on their merits not on political grounds,” Mr Windsor said.

#### The email from Austrade

**From:** "Caroline-James \ (Melbourne\)" <Caroline.James@austrade.gov.au>

**Date:** 26 November 2006 3:23:44 PM

**Subject: Media Notification - Bellata Gold - Finalist in the Australian Export Awards - Monday 27 November at 11.00am**

Hello

Pls note details below of Monday 27 November workplace presentation around Bellata Gold being named a Finalist in the Australian Export Awards. Mr Kevin Anderson, National Party Candidate for Tamworth, is also attending. Media are welcome and invited.

Kind regards, Caroline

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**Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**