



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

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Windsor pays tribute to the late John White

Federal Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has expressed his sympathy following the death of former NSW Farmers' Association CEO, John White.

"John White was a leader in the real sense during a time of great change in the farm sector and was a key participant in farm politics from 1978 to 1994," Mr Windsor said.

"He was also instrumental in the formation of the National Farmers Federation".

Mr Windsor was involved on the General Council of the NSW Farmers' Association during the mid 1980's when Mr White was the CEO.

"When I stood for the NSW Parliament in 1991 I sought advice from John White and again when I found myself in a hung Parliament and had the deciding vote on who formed a Government in NSW."

"John White assisted me in my deliberations with Nick Greiner in relation to issues concerning the farm sector."

"Two issues that come to mind that John suggested I put to the Liberal Leader in determining support for the Coalition were Just Terms Legislation and the saving of the grain handling system from being sold to foreign interests."

"At that time the Coalition had made it known that it intended to sell the grain handling facilities with interest being expressed from international grain traders."

"On John's advice I informed Nick Greiner that I would not support the formation of a Coalition Government if they intended to sell out wheat growers interests."

"From that advice, Just Terms was the first major piece of legislation that I supported in the Parliament and grain handling facilities in NSW are still maintained in grower ownership."

Mr Windsor said that farmers in NSW and nationally owed a tremendous amount to the intellect, capacity to work and genuine empathy with country people that John White possessed.

"There is no doubt that John was the major driver in making the NSW Farmers' Association the pre-eminent farm organisation in Australia.

"He will be sadly missed but his contribution will never be forgotten," Mr Windsor said.

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