



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

27 June 2007

High hopes for Torbay's Regional Taskforce

The announcement by NSW Premier Morris Iemma of a Rural and Regional taskforce – part of Member for Northern Tablelands Richard Torbay's agreement to take on the role of Speaker of the NSW Parliament - has raised the hopes of country people according to the Federal Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

The Taskforce, to be chaired by the former Director General of the Premier's Department, Dr Col Gellatly with Mr Torbay and Member for Monaro, Steve Whan as the other two members, is being set up to examine and provide advice on key economic, environmental and social issues affecting rural and regional communities across NSW, something that Mr Windsor believes will have great value to country people.

"I congratulate Richard Torbay on the establishment of the NSW Rural and Regional Taskforce as part of the conditions of his taking on the role of Speaker of the NSW Parliament.

I also congratulate the NSW Premier for seeing the good that could come from such a Taskforce.

There are many opportunities in country NSW that given appropriate levels of recognition and support will make a positive impact on the lives of many people and the future of country NSW," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor was also very pleased to see the appointment of Dr Col Gellatly as the Chairman of the Taskforce.

"Dr Col Gellatly is a very good choice as the Chairman of the Rural and Regional Taskforce.

Dr Gellatly has had a long association with country life and issues having completed his initial University degree at the University of New England.

He has proven his bona fides and impartiality at the highest level in the public service having just recently retired after many years as the Director General of the Premier's Department as well as having held high public service positions under the previous Coalition Government.

He knows how the system works and I believe has earned great respect from all sides of politics," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is now encouraging country people to engage with the Taskforce.

"The creation of the Rural and Regional Taskforce is an excellent vehicle for country people to use to get their message across to the NSW Government.

I would encourage country people to engage wholeheartedly with the Taskforce to make sure country issues and opportunities to be part of solutions to overall State problems are seen by the Government.

It's now up to country people to make sure this vehicle gets driven," Mr Windsor said.

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