



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](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)  
**Web Page:** [www.tonywindsor.com.au](http://www.tonywindsor.com.au)

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Turnbull happy to consider funding application for mining study into impacts on Liverpool Plains water**

People of the Liverpool Plains may yet get their wish for an independent study into the impact of mining on their groundwater and surface water following the Minister for Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull's statement in the Parliament today that he would be happy to consider any application on the matter.

Mr Turnbull was responding to a question from the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor and follows on from two previous questions asked of the Prime Minister and in light of the knock back of the original application for funding.

"I am pleased that Mr Turnbull is happy to consider any application which I forward to him on the impact of mining on the Liverpool Plains groundwater and surface water.

There is very little science available with regard to the interconnectivity of groundwater and surface water and given the inadequate provisions of the New South Wales planning processes regarding off-site impacts of mining on high water bearing groundwater aquifers like are found on the Liverpool Plains.

There is a very real risk that irreparable damage could be done to a highly productive agricultural area if mining commences and fractures aquifers that then can't be stemmed.

It will be too late if the aquifer is breached and then cuts off underground flows to other aquifers downstream up to perhaps 200kms away.

It is therefore essential to better understand the impact of mining coal on the Liverpool Plains before it commences rather than have to try to find a little Dutch boy to stick his finger in the aquifer when it has sprung a leak," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes it is not good enough for the Commonwealth Government to do nothing on this issue particularly given the flawed NSW Planning processes which will not allow adequate consideration of off-site impacts.

"I will be seeking to resubmit the funding application that was rejected last year and I welcome Mr Turnbull's encouragement to do so," Mr Windsor said.

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