



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Minister for Communications needs better internal office communication**

A denial by the Federal Minister for Communications Helen Coonan of any knowledge of the 'Regional Powered Towers Program' proposed by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor has drawn suggestions from Mr Windsor that perhaps the Minister should look into her own internal office communications.

The Minister was speaking on ABC Radio New England North-West this morning when she claimed she was not aware of Mr Windsor's proposal.

"The Regional Powered Tower Program proposal was hand delivered to Minister Coonan's office last Tuesday – September 11.

For the Minister to say that she knows nothing of the proposal indicates that communication within her office is in need of a review," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor is also critical of the Minister's apparent lack of knowledge about the circumstances at Yetman in the New England electorate.

"The Minister's office has received correspondence and a couple of submissions about a tower to serve Yetman dating back to June 2004 when Telstra was majority Government owned and further I have raised the issue on at least three occasions in the Parliament.

The latest correspondence was from Inverell Shire Councillor Clr David Jones, an engineer who also put a submission together back in June 2004 requesting a CDMA transmitter to serve Yetman and more recently a proposal seeking 'the provision of a mechanism for Federal Government funding to achieve powered telecommunication towers for isolated rural communities' was sent to the Minister only a few weeks ago.

Yetman may not be a big place but it should have a more memorable name for the Minister now," Mr Windsor said.