



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# Labor tax package misses opportunity for nation building

## But still nothing on petrol tax from either side

The announcement of \$31B in tax cuts plus \$3B for education by the Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd in response to the Prime Minister's \$34B in tax cuts has missed the opportunity for nation building and differentiation between the Coalition and Labor according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

"I was critical of the Coalition's \$34B tax cuts announced last week raising the question - tax cuts or better services?"

The Labor Party had an opportunity to differentiate themselves from the Government by using the surplus funds to invest in nation building projects across the board of the various portfolios along with their plans to boost education opportunities.

They also had an opportunity to address increasing petrol prices through a substantial cut to petrol excise currently at running at 38c per litre which impacts greatly on everyone's cost of living but particularly on country people who have no public transport alternatives.

Australia is in great need of upgrades to our health system, telecommunications, transport infrastructure, environmental needs and the many other human services that go to making our communities better places that we can all share in as well as our education system.

If we have \$34B to give away in tax cuts and a large part of the community is saying that they would forego tax cuts to have better services, then the Labor Party should have been able to do better than 'ME TOO – Nearly,' Mr Windsor said.

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