



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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No mention of “Country Australia” in debate

With 30% of Australia’s population living in rural and regional Australia, the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor is very disappointed that it was not mentioned in the debate between the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader on Sunday night.

Mr Windsor believes that this “oversight” should wake country people up to the need to increase the representation of country Independent MPs who can make sure that whoever wins Government will not overlook the needs of country people.

“Country Australians have every right to be disappointed with the debate between the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader.

I was very disappointed.

It’s as though 30% of the Australian population is to be taken for granted again by both the Government and the Opposition with the Government thinking that they’ll never lose the country vote through the Liberal Party sub-branch – the National Party - and the Opposition thinking they’ll never win it so there’s no point in even trying to win their vote.

I would encourage Country Australians to put down their party loyalties and vote as one for a country independent who can truly represent them in the Parliament rather than represent the party back in the electorate,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor was particularly critical of the fact that despite country Australia being in the grip of the worst drought ever the two leaders seemed to focus on city voters.

“Country Australia is in the grip of the worst drought ever, has major water issues to deal with, has telecommunication needs to overcome the tyranny of distance and when combined with doctor and allied health professional shortages, hospital service needs, access to education opportunities and development of infrastructure, surely the two leaders could have provided country voters with something specific that they could say was going to address their needs too.

So much for having the National Party that continues to purport that they represent country people in government when there wasn’t as much as a whimper about country people’s needs.

Country Australia needs its Independents,” Mr Windsor said.

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