



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

12 November 2007

Where's the cheque, Wacka?

A statement made by the National Party Senate candidate Mr John "Wacka" Williams about the funding for Chaffey Dam has been described as misleading by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Williams made a statement about the funding for Chaffey Dam at the NSW Farmers Association Meet the Candidates Forum in Armidale last Thursday evening saying "it's totally there – the cheque is there".

"Well no one has seen the cheque and for the National Party Senate candidate John 'Wacka' Williams to say that 'it's totally there – the cheque is there', is very misleading to say the least.

No one has seen the cheque and there is still a process to go through to access the funds that indicate the funding is not as secure as the National Party would have people believe.

Chaffey Dam funding is not 'delivered' and until such time as the 'cheque IS there' the community must maintain pressure on the Coalition to live up to its word," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor asked that if Chaffey Dam funding is so secure, why then does the Minister for the Environment and Water Malcolm Turnbull leave wriggle room in his wording in a letter to him on October 11 just gone.

Mr Turnbull defers to "the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) protects matters of national environmental significance. The Chaffey Dam locality and its immediate catchment area may include matters of natural environmental significance such as threatened species and ecological communities and listed migratory species. The nature of any impacts upon these matters, if any, *remains to be determined* and will be considered if the proposal is referred to me to determine whether approval under the EPBC Act is required."

"The announcement of Government funding for Chaffey was made before the election was called so it is not an election promise, it is a Government commitment and should proceed regardless of whoever wins the election.

Mr Williams has been caught out saying things that are obviously not true.

Perhaps Mr Williams is getting in practice for being a National Party representative of saying one thing in the community and then doing the opposite in Canberra.

If the cheque is available, Mr Williams might like to call the Chairman of the Chaffey Dam Reference Panel, Bruce Brown and arrange to drop it off," Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080