



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

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Windsor to meet PM on Wheat Export Marketing Bill

Wheat grower poll close off date extended to April 28

The Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has invited the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor to meet with him to discuss the Government's proposed changes to Australia's wheat export marketing system.

Mr Windsor has been very proactive on the matter and is currently undertaking a poll of all Australia's wheat growers to find out their views of what they want for the future of their industry.

"I am very grateful to the Prime Minister for his invitation to meet with me to discuss the proposed changes to the Australia's wheat export marketing system.

Any change is going to impact on all of Australia's wheat growers and I have always held the belief that they should have the opportunity to have a say.

This is why I'm conducting a poll as I did last year when the 'wheat for weapons' scandal erupted bringing on the Cole Inquiry and now the Wheat Export Marketing Bill proposed changes to a multi-licensing.

Given that Mr Rudd himself said in Tamworth in March 2006 that 'I think if the Howard Government is fair dinkum about finding out what wheat farmers want, what they should be doing is polling all wheat farmers', I will present the findings of the poll to him at our meeting and look forward to a fruitful discussion," Mr Windsor said.

As a result of the Prime Minister's invitation, Mr Windsor is extending the period for wheat growers to respond to his poll to find out their views of the proposed changes to April 28 so that Mr Windsor can provide Mr Rudd with as comprehensive a view of the changes as possible.

"Thousands of wheat growers have already responded to the poll, however in light of the Prime Minister's invitation, I am extending the close off date for return until the close of business on Monday April 28.

The opportunity of presenting the poll results directly to the Prime Minister is one that should not be missed and should motivate wheat growers, irrespective of their views as to whether they want the single desk structure to continue, or accept the Government's proposed changes to a multi-licensing system or want total deregulation of the market, who have not as yet returned their poll to me, to do so before this date," Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868