



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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2020 Summit an avenue to raise country opportunities for Australia's future growth

The Prime Minister's 2020 Summit will be used by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor as an avenue to raise a number of future needs for country Australia.

Mr Windsor believes that country Australia can play a significant role in Australia's future and should have more attention paid to its development and enhancing its opportunities so a better balance between lifestyle and work and the environment can be achieved.

Mr Windsor will be part of the Population, Sustainability, Climate Change and Water grouping and is looking forward to brain storming with the other participants to provide the Government with some direction and priority for the future.

Some of the issues Mr Windsor wants his grouping to address under the four headings include:

Population: mix; immigration; guest workers; skills; location (coastal/inland), sustainable numbers, relationship to water; use of taxation system to populate areas capable of sustaining more people; services needed for population growth

Climate Change: fossil fuel use; renewable energy policy; research and development of technology associated with "clean" sources of energy; lignocellulosic biofuels – the food/fuel debate; the carbon debate; greenhouse gas emissions; methane from livestock; CO₂ measurement and the role of soils to naturally store carbon;

Water: policy – urban, industrial and agricultural use, property rights; trading

Sustainability: drought policy; a National Natural Disaster Fund; land use; weed control, productivity growth

"All topics are very complex and there will be no silver bullet at the end of the weekend however I am hopeful that as a result of the Summit we will all have a better understanding of the inter-relationships of the issues and possible courses of action to take to address the current and looming problems that Australians face.

2020 is not far off. The things we do now will impact on what 2020 and beyond looks like so I trust people attending can leave their politics at the door, respect each others positions and work together to deliver real tangible outcomes for ALL Australians recognising that regardless of where they live, they can all share in Australia's wealth and opportunities," Mr Windsor said.

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