



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

21 April 2008

People's Parliament a success

Windsor calls for regular Summits to review, refine and develop new ideas

The Prime Minister's 2020 Summit concept should become an annual or bi-ennial event according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor believes that the process of bringing people together not directly involved in the political process is good giving elected representatives better direction and focus.

"Regular Summits bringing people together to look at this year's 2020 Summit could review progress made on the ideas, refine the ideas further and develop new ones.

I believe if the Prime Minister had a regular event like this there would be more understanding of issues, who and what they are impacting on and better agreement on strategies to address the impacts.

The process cuts through the 'them and us' arguments to become more 'we', as in 'WE are all in this together'.

Politicians are not the font of all wisdom and regular Summits like the one we have just had would enable politicians to work with well credentialed people in the various fields to develop and implement strategies for the benefit of the nation," Mr Windsor said.

Whilst Mr Windsor did not agree with all of the final communiqué from his grouping, he was happy that he had had the opportunity to raise concerns he had about climate change, the use of renewable energy and the role that agriculture could play in both.

"Country Australia can play a significant role in Australia's future renewable energy needs as well as how we sequester carbon to help address the issue of climate change.

I encouraged the group to look at what we can do through better understanding and use of our natural resources and agriculture in the process.

The final communiqué does not mention specifically the word 'renewable' rather it speaks of 'clean' energy which leaves the door open for nuclear power stations and fossil fuels to further impact on other parts of our environment through the waste left behind and its method of extraction on aquifers that sustain other productive activities.

There can be a win-win outcome for both the environment and people if we are innovative and focussed," Mr Windsor said.

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