



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Windsor moves exemption for country four wheel drives from luxury car tax

## Nationals rollover again even in Opposition

An amendment to exempt country registered four wheel drive purchasers from the increase to luxury car tax proposed by the Government in the Budget has been moved by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor however when it came to the vote, the Nationals failed to turn up.

Mr Windsor argued that many people in country areas need a four wheel drive vehicle for work and safety reasons.

He said that many basic four wheel drive vehicles cost more than the proposed threshold of \$57,123 and was astonished that the Nationals did not give their unqualified support for its adoption even though one Country Liberal MP did.

“The Nationals failed to turn up for the vote on my amendment that was aimed at exempting country registered four wheel drives from the new luxury car tax hike proposed in the Budget.

It was only my fellow Independent Bob Katter from North Queensland and South Australian Liberal Patrick Secker who stood up for country people.

I thank them for their support and for their commitment to representing the interests of country people – something you’d think the Nationals, now in Opposition, would be keen to re-establish their credentials on,” Mr Windsor said.

In moving his amendment, Mr Windsor told the Parliament, “... a four-wheel drive vehicle is not a luxury to those people who are trying to look after their families in areas where roads can be quite trying.

Roads can be very rough. There can be wash-outs, water, mud, corrugations and dust.

People in country areas do not have the luxuries of public transport, of paved roads, of tollways or of motorways.

Many people have to purchase vehicles that will withstand the arduous roads they have to drive them on.

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.... I appeal to the government to look at what they are doing with what seems to be rushed taxation legislation.

If they do not or will not agree with the amendment, I urge them to lift the threshold of \$57,000 for those people who require these vehicles because of the circumstances in which they live—that is, in country areas.

This is a tax on a necessity, not a luxury, in these areas.

I am sure that many of the people I am talking about would buy a normal vehicle if governments spent more money on the road network.

In fact, I am sure that would happen.... the government raises about \$14 billion in fuel excise—and there has been a major debate on fuel excise in this place—and spends somewhere around \$2.5 billion to \$2.6 billion on roads, so there is an enormous discrepancy between what is raised and what is spent.

As I said earlier, country people do not have the luxury of opting for something else. .... I ask all members, particularly the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer, to look seriously at this amendment.

I could understand the tax, as I said earlier, if someone were to buy a four-wheel drive vehicle worth \$100,000 or more with leather and every bit of gadgetry in it.

But a very basic LandCruiser, for instance, is over \$57,000. In fact, the cheapest LandCruiser is a V8 and so we have a contradictory debate where we are sending people towards heavy fuel use rather than more economical use.

Diesel is much more efficient in consumption but, if you buy a diesel LandCruiser—and many other four-wheel drive vehicles are the same—it will cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 more and be considered a luxury.”