



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

23 July 2008

### Windsor encourages people affected by drought to attend public forum in Inverell on 24 July

The Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, MP, is encouraging farming families and other people affected by drought to attend a public forum being conducted in Inverell by the expert independent panel appointed by the Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Tony Burke, MP, to review the social impacts of the drought on farming families and rural communities.

Mr Windsor has been advised the forum will be conducted on **Thursday, 24 July, 2008 at the Inverell RSM Club, 68-76 Evans Street, between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm.**

“The expert panel, led by AgForce President, Mr Peter Kenny, is keen to hear the views of Australians on the social impacts being felt by individuals, families and communities as a result of the prolonged drought. The panel also wants to find out what types of social support people value in times of drought and is to report back to Minister Burke in September 2008,” Mr Windsor said.

He said the Inverell forum is part of a series of public forums being held across Australia during the second half of July and August 2008. People who are unable to attend the forums will still have the opportunity to make their views known as the panel will be accepting writing submissions. The panel has released an issues paper to help people with the submission process which can be downloaded from the National Review of Drought Policy’s website at:

[www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/national\\_review\\_of\\_drought\\_policy/social\\_assessment](http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/national_review_of_drought_policy/social_assessment)

or via Mr Windsor’s Inverell and Tamworth Electorate Offices (Ph 1300 301 839).

Mr Windsor said that written submissions must be received by the Panel by Friday, 8 August, 2008.

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