



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](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)  
**Web Page:** [www.tonywindsor.com.au](http://www.tonywindsor.com.au)

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Windsor welcomes Rob Oakeshott's decision to Stand for Lyne

The Independent Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, has welcomed the announcement by the State Independent Member for Port Macquarie, Rob Oakeshott, that he will be contesting the Federal Seat of Lyne at the forthcoming by-election caused by the resignation of National Party Member, Mark Vaile.

Mr Windsor, who served with Mr Oakeshott for a number of years in the NSW Parliament, said Mr Oakeshott would be great asset to the Federal Parliament.

“One of the most important aspects of Independent Members of Parliament is that they are never in opposition and are able to negotiate with the Government of the day on issues affecting the people they have been elected to represent,” Mr Windsor said.

“Independents play an active role in the Parliament, influencing legislation, moving amendments, highlighting shortcomings and promoting issues important to their electorates and country Australians.”

Mr Windsor urged the people of Lyne to support Mr Oakeshott who has proven himself to be a very effective Member and voice for the people of his Electorate over the past 11 years in the New South Wales Parliament.

To those who question the effectiveness of Independents, Mr Windsor referred to the proposed sale of the Snowy Hydro Scheme in 2006 where the three parties in New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth all supported the legislation to sell this iconic Australian asset.

“It was through the advocacy of Independents in the Parliament and the people of Australia that the decision to sell Snowy Hydro was overturned,” Mr Windsor said.

“Australia needs Independents in the Parliament to provide balance and to ensure the best possible outcomes for the people of Australia, and particularly those in country areas, are achieved.”

“I know that Rob Oakeshott will continue to work tirelessly for the people of his electorate and I am sure he will make an outstanding contribution to help achieve better outcomes and effective results within the Parliament of Australia,” Mr Windsor said.

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**For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 668868**