



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 new Independent Urges WA Nats to remain “Independent” Party**

The by-election victory by Independent Rob Oakeshott in the Federal seat of Lyne has been welcomed by neighbouring Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor is delighted that the people of Lyne have carried their support of Mr Oakeshott from his NSW State seat across to the Federal seat vacated by the former Deputy Prime Minister and National Party Leader Mark Vaile, believing that it is representation that people want, not just a party hack who has to toe the party line.

“I congratulate the people of Lyne for supporting Rob Oakeshott.

By doing so, they have put their own voice into the Federal Parliament, something I believe will provide them with unfettered representation.

Rob has proven over his years in the NSW Parliament that he is very capable of negotiating with the Government of the day to deliver for his community and to assist individuals in their dealings with Government.

I look forward to working with him for the benefit of the people in our electorates now in the Federal Parliament,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also saw the initial result of the Western Australian State election on Saturday of great interest not only for the people of Western Australia but also more broadly for country people given that there could be a hung parliament with the National Party holding the balance of power.

“The Western Australian election with the WA Nationals not in “coalition” with the Liberals is going to be a real test of character for the Nationals.

“It is no secret that the Liberals and Nationals in the west have not been on the best of terms so it will be very interesting to see what they decide to do should they have the balance of power.

“I would urge the WA Nationals to resist the temptation to form a ‘Coalition’ jumping into bed with the Liberals taking on the trappings of Ministerial positions.

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

“I believe that for the greatest benefit of their country constituency, that they remain ‘independent’ and play the field negotiating the best outcomes possible from the cross-benches.

“If they don’t, the WA Nationals will run the risk of being taken for granted by both the Liberal and the Labor Parties.

You don’t have to be part of a government to allow a government to form as instanced with the Greiner Government in 1991 when my vote allowed the government to form but I didn’t have to join it.

That maintains the maximum leverage for country people

If the WA Nationals do go to the cross benches, they may also show their Federal colleagues the folly of their rusted on position with the Liberal Party and why they are now down to just nine House of Representative seats and all of their former Leaders’ seats lost.

Since Federation, there hasn’t been a government formed without country MPs being needed but unfortunately these country MPs have often traded off their position of strength to serve a city based Party contrary to the needs of the people who put them there.

The WA Nationals can take a lead here and I urge them to do so.

It could very well be the Nationals salvation,” Mr Windsor said.