



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

5 November 2008

### Regional Funding Program interim report released

The Inquiry into a New Regional Development Funding Program being undertaken by a House of Representatives Standing Committee of which the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor is a member has released an interim report today.

Mr Windsor said that the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Committee was asked to report on the highly critical Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Program and then make recommendations on ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure with the aim of enhancing the sustainability and livability of Australia's regions.

"The Committee has looked very closely at the workings of the previous Government's Regional Partnerships Program with a view to making it more transparent and accountable to the community and the Financial Management and Accountability (FMA) Regulations Act 1997.

The Committee has made twenty four recommendations in the Interim Report with further work to follow.

In particular, the Committee has endorsed the Australian National Audit Office's recommendation that Ministers be obliged under FMA Regulations to record the basis on which the approver is satisfied that expenditure represents efficient and effective use of public money and is in accordance with the relevant policies of the Commonwealth," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also highlights the recommendations about funding to not-for-profit and for-profit organisations.

"The Committee has recommended that a new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program exclude applications from 'for-profit' organisations and that the Government establish regional industry grants through a separate stream under another department or agency such as AusIndustry to consider 'for-profit' assistance needs.

There will be a greater emphasis in terms of prioritising community needs through Local Government representation rather than the previous adhoc system of politically targeted funding or support of political mates.

The Committee will make its final report before the end of the year," Mr Windsor said.

**Full Interim Report available at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/itrdlg/regionaldevelopment/report.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/itrdlg/regionaldevelopment/report.htm)**

---

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