



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# Windsor to raise ASGE community development funds release in Parliament next week

The impasse over the release of community development funds under the Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Program that is part of an Inter-Governmental Agreement between the New South Wales State Government and Federal Government will again be raised with the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Minister for Finance Lindsay Tanner by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor when Parliament resumes next week.

Mr Windsor is concerned that the Federal Government's tap dancing on the issue is creating great mis-trust in the community and is also holding up projects that will help reduce the impact of the loss of water allocations in the valleys across inland New South Wales.

Mr Windsor said that the Federal Government had agreed to honour previous government contractual arrangements.

"It is now over twelve months since the new Government came to power.

"Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner in his role as chairman of the 'razer gang' stated clearly earlier this year that any contractual arrangement that had been undertaken by the previous government would be honoured by the Rudd Government.

"Clearly the Inter-Governmental Agreement signed three years ago between the New South Wales Government and the Federal Government to establish a Community Development Fund under the 'Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Scheme' is a contractual arrangement and should be honoured," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor has raised the issue of payment of the \$3.4m owing under the contract with Minister Wong's Office on a number of occasions only to be told that the Minister was looking into the issue.

"The Government needs to clarify this issue as to not abide by a contractual inter-governmental agreement undermines trust and credibility in future water reform negotiations," Mr Windsor said.

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