



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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### **Glen Innes Ag Research Station future opportunities to be investigated by Minister for Agriculture**

Future opportunities for the continuation of research at the Glen Innes Agricultural Research and Advisory Station will be investigated by the Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke.

The undertaking was given by the Minister in response to a question asked of him by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor and follows community action that has seen the NSW State Government delay the date of the proposed closure until the end of March 2009.

Mr Windsor will now follow up the Minister to ensure the work capabilities of the Glen Innes facility is fully understood so that research projects and partners can be identified to maintain it into the future.

“I informed the Minister of the very long history of the Glen Innes Agricultural Research and Advisory Station particularly in the field of soil carbon research.

At this time when climate change solutions are being sought, the research that has been done by the Glen Innes Centre dating back to 1934 must put it at the forefront of the game.

I was very pleased that Minister Burke has indicated that he will further investigate the opportunities for the Centre to continue to undertake its research particularly in the soil carbon field and I look forward to working with the community and the Minister to bring about a positive outcome for all concerned,” Mr Windsor said.

#### **Mr Windsor’s Question**

The possible closure by the New South Wales government of the Glen Innes Agricultural Research and Advisory Station and the issue of soil carbon research. The minister would be aware that there has been a recent flurry of research into soil carbon as a potential aid to reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide. Is the minister aware that the Glen Innes centre has been recording carbon levels since 1934, as part of an experiment to develop stable and productive crop relations?

Minister, as this centre is one of a few in the world that have recorded this valuable scientific evidence, could you minister investigate any possible partnership arrangements at the federal level that may keep this vital resource operating?

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**Minister Burke's Answer** – I thank the Member for New England for the question and acknowledge the strong interest in soil carbon that he's had ever since he arrived in this place, particularly the advocacy of no till and minimum till farming and the outcome on soil carbon there. I'm very happy to investigate the issues the Member for New England has asked. The government is quite determined to see what can be done in the space of soil carbon.

At the ABARE Outlook Conference earlier this year .... I was tasked with commissioning new research and looking at what could be done in furthering the Commonwealth's involvement with respect to soil carbon. The Climate Change Research fund which I had the opportunity to speak about last week. The \$46.2m fund is one of the mechanisms by which we are doing that- but to the extent that there is extra information and a depth of knowledge that would not exist in many places in the world going back to 1934 that's there at Glen Innes. Very happy to see ways in which we might be able to work together and certainly I'll be conducting an investigation along the lines requested.