



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
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

Media Release

7 December 2008

\$3.4m ASGE Community Development Funds announced

Federal funds of \$3.4m under the Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlements Community Development Grants have been announced today by the Minister for the Environment and Water, Senator the Hon Penny Wong.

The Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor, who has been seeking the announcement and release of the funding for nearly twelve months, is pleased that the Minister has given the go-ahead for the money to flow.

Mr Windsor was concerned about the delay in honouring the previous government's agreement with the NSW State Government under a joint funding arrangement negotiated as part of a reduction in water allocation to groundwater users across six valleys in NSW however he believes the outcome has been worth the wait.

The projects to be funded in the Liverpool Plains and Namoi Catchment are:

- \$2.1 million for the Liverpool Plains Shire to find alternative water supplies for the town of Quirindi and reduce its reliance on overdrawn groundwater systems and
- \$1.3 million for the Namoi Catchment Management Authority for two projects: a water use efficiency program for groundwater irrigators and a hydrological investigation of Gins Leap Gap.

"I am very pleased that the Government has clarified this issue before Christmas as people were getting very worried about whether the projects would be able to proceed as hoped and planned.

I thank the Minister for her announcement – it's an early Christmas present for which we are very grateful," Mr Windsor said.

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