



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

15 December 2008

5% a waste of time and a waste of a moment in history

Greenhouse gas emission cuts of just 5% announced by the Prime Minister today have been described by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor as the worst possible option, even worse than doing nothing saying that soil carbon solutions could achieve that target on their own.

Mr Windsor, who introduced a Private Members Bill in early November calling for mandatory targets of at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, is very disappointed that the Government is wasting the opportunity.

“The Government’s announcement today of just 5% has all the disadvantages of a new economic system that will achieve nothing in terms of saving the planet and displays no global leadership.

It creates more uncertainty for business and the community for when or if there is an increase in the percentage.

There is going to be whole new bureaucracy created to implement and run the process for just 5% when the technology being developed around solutions through soil carbon sequestration could absorb that much without all the added costs and heartache to the economy that it appears this scheme will do.

Australians are concerned about the legacy that they will leave in terms of climate, given the substantial scientific evidence before us that there are problems looming and problems currently in the world in relation to emissions, not only of carbon dioxide but nitrous oxide, methane and other global warming gasses.

I believe they expected more from the Government on this issue and I’m sure the silent majority will be starting to wake from their slumber.

As I have said before, many people are concerned that the government and the opposition, although paying lip-service to this particular issue, do not seem to be inclined to pursue the issue to the full extent and today’s announcement has confirmed this.

I would rather be remembered as someone who tried to do something than have future generations look back and say why didn’t they do something when all the scientific evidence showed the problem was developing,” Mr Windsor said.

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