



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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### **Keep ALL Country Seats in NSW Electoral Redistribution** **Include Gunnedah in New England seat - Windsor**

The number of country seats should be kept the same when the Australian Electoral Commission looks at redistributing electoral boundaries in New South Wales according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor will also be asking the Commission to include the community of Gunnedah in the seat of New England.

The Electoral redistribution has been brought about by a declining population in New South Wales and a growing population in Queensland which will see the number of seats in New South Wales drop by one and increase by one in Queensland meaning potential changes to the boundaries of most NSW electorates.

However Mr Windsor believes that the number of country representatives should not drop and is putting a submission into the AEC saying that.

“The last redistribution that took place and came into effect at the 2007 Election saw the loss of the country seat of Gwydir and therefore the loss of a country voice in the Parliament.

“This was a tragedy for country NSW.

“I would argue against the further loss of any country seats on the grounds of serviceability of the seat and the need for recognition that more sparsely populated areas deserve representation in the Parliament as well as access to their representative,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor also believes that the additional electors required by the AEC under the redistribution could be obtained from the Gunnedah Local Government Area (LGA).

He says that currently, the Liverpool Range is a key geographic landmark forming the southern boundary of the New England Electorate and incorporating the communities of Willow Tree, Quirindi, Spring Ridge and Premer, all of which have a community of interest with Tamworth, the largest centre in the Electorate.

“Many of the families in the Liverpool Plains Shire Council area have children attending schools in Tamworth or Armidale as well as attending the University of New England.

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“The same relationship exists with residents of the Gunnedah LGA.

“Gunnedah forms the second portion of the magnificent Liverpool Plains farming country and shares with the Liverpool Plains Shire Council – currently part of the New England Electorate – significant issues relating to landuse, water and the coal developments being undertaken.

The economic linkages of the Liverpool Plains and Gunnedah relate more to Tamworth and the New England Electorate than to Dubbo and the Parkes Electorate.

The freight linkages to Newcastle of these areas are also an important factor and I will be drawing these things to the attention of the Australian Electoral Commission,” Mr Windsor said.