



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Glen Innes Severn and Tenterfield Shires targeted for extra help through Jobs Fund**

The Glen Innes-Severn Shire and Tenterfield Shire in the north of the New England Electorate have been targeted for extra assistance through the Australian Government's Jobs Fund as part of a "Priority Employment Area" that stretches across from the North Coast of New South Wales.

As part of this program, a Local Employment Area Co-ordinator for the region will be appointed to help drive local responses to job losses and declining economic conditions.

The Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor has welcomed the announcement by the Prime Minister in the Parliament yesterday.

"The inclusion of Glen Innes Severn and Tenterfield Shire areas as part of a 'Priority Employment Area' should provide the communities of these areas with some positive opportunities to address their economic needs and help them to set their direction for the future.

"I welcome the announcement by the Prime Minister and look forward to the program delivering positive outcomes to the communities of these Shires," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the areas have been selected by the Government on the basis of labour market indicators, the combination of which increases a region's likelihood of experiencing disadvantage now or in the future as a result of the global economic recession.

He said that according to the guidelines of the program, these regions have higher than average unemployment rates and in many cases, part of the region's population may have low educational attainment or skill levels, may have seen an increase in the number of people receiving unemployment benefits, or may have a history of experiencing difficulties particularly during previous economic downturns.

Jobs Fund projects which can apply for up to \$2 million in assistance, must address at least one of the following four target areas:

- create jobs or retain people in jobs at risk due to the downturn
- build skills for the future
- build community infrastructure or improve community amenity which generates local jobs, or
- provide seed funding for social enterprises to start up, maintain or expand services, generating jobs and improving community services.

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