



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Turnbull trying to re-write history of Liverpool Plains Study commitment

Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull is again trying to re-write history about his commitment to funding an independent study of the coal, groundwater and surface resources of the Liverpool Plains given when he was the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources in late 2007 according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor has been drawn to comment on Mr Turnbull's position following his reported answer to a question at a luncheon in Sydney where he said *"When the issue relating to the Liverpool Plains arose in that year (2007) we (The Coalition Government) announced that there should be a federally-funded groundwater study of that area to form an objective view about the interaction of groundwater with proposed underground mining. Now, to my knowledge, the (now) federal government is not proceeding to do that."*

"Mr Turnbull didn't just say that there SHOULD be a federally funded groundwater study, he said there WOULD be a study and he announced \$4.88m to fund the study on October 5, 2007.

"Unfortunately, Mr Turnbull failed to deliver on this commitment given to the Liverpool Plains Land Management Committee representatives and publicly.

"As the Minister at the time, Mr Turnbull could have and should have secured the funds for the study so that irrespective of who won the 2007 election, the Study would have proceeded," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that it was within Mr Turnbull's power to secure the funds but it appears that the issue wasn't important enough to him then but now, nearly two years later Mr Turnbull is saying *"There is virtually nowhere in Australia,..... where the groundwater systems are well understood. And the impact of other activities can be very significant. I share the concerns that the gentleman's mentioned about the Liverpool Plains but the answer to that is a very thorough groundwater study."*

"Mr Turnbull could have saved two years of heartache for the people of the Liverpool Plains and the study could be well underway to providing vital information to allow Government and mining companies to better understand the problem and act accordingly.

"It was political expediency of Malcolm Turnbull to give false hope to the proponents of the Study back in 2007 and it is political expediency now for Mr Turnbull to say he *"shares the concerns that the gentleman's mentioned about the Liverpool Plains but the answer to that is a very thorough groundwater study."*

"The ball could have and should have been kicked by Malcolm Turnbull when it was at **HIS** feet.

"Perhaps it's another indication of why Mr Turnbull's showing in the polls is not very good," Mr Windsor said.

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