



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

17 November 2009

Vision New England Summit unites groups on solutions

The 2009 Vision New England Summit held in Armidale on Saturday has provided an opportunity for groups to unite in support of each others quests to identify and deliver solutions to issues that impact on people across the New England Electorate.

Convenor of the Summit, Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor was very pleased with the input from the delegates representing some 40 community organisations.

“All participants were very considered and understanding of issues impacting on the different groups.

They were enthusiastic in their support of the twenty one resolutions and raised other points that would assist in promoting solutions to the issues raised,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said that the twenty one resolutions from the Summit would now be followed up as per the direction of the Summit.

“The Summit resolutions all have associated follow up actions which we will be pursuing.

I will provide updates as to progress made on each resolution and look forward to positive outcomes for the communities of the New England Electorate,” Mr Windsor said.

The 21 Resolutions follow

Vision New England Summit 2009 - Resolutions

Resolution 1

That the Vision New England Summit endorses the formation of a small workgroup consisting of three (3) people to put NBN submission together

- Alun Davies - former network manager for Telstra Country Wide
- David Jones - Councillor Inverell Shire Council
- Brian Cameron - University of New England and
- A Representative of Regional Development Australia NENW

All interested parties to send short letters of support, which include the following points to Mr Windsor's office by 27th November

- Commitment to use NBN, when rolled out in their area
- How their community will use NBN eg. Expansion of medical centre and remote diagnostics in Inverell, Web broadcast of Equine events in Tamworth, video call centre NECU Armidale, Disaster Centre Inverell and read water plus electricity meters electronically
- How they can help to facilitate smooth rollout of NBN in New England if applicable eg. Councils to nominate a liaison officer to quickly resolve onsite any local issues with pits and cabling

Working Group to put together submission and send via Mr Windsor's office to Senator Conroy and Mr Quigley

Resolution 2

That the Minister for Ageing be requested to follow up the report into aged care services in small regional and remote communities into the development of a model to serve these communities' needs with inclusion of Clinical nurse practitioners as an option, incorporating community care and making use of technology advances.

Resolution 3

That the Bolivia Hill section of the New England Highway be made the Number 1 priority of the RTA for major works to be undertaken next.

Resolution 4

That the Summit supports a heavy vehicle bypass of Tenterfield being prioritised by the RTA and constructed.

Resolution 5

That the ARTC and Industry stakeholders be encouraged to move quickly to deciding on the preferred route through the Liverpool Range and commence works.

That the Summit identifies that the Inland Rail Link between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane is very significant and supports a study of rail links all the way into Brisbane.

Resolution 6

That the Vision New England Summit provides Tamworth Regional Council with a letter of support for the continued delivery of services to the Australian Defence Force from the BAe College at Tamworth Regional Airport.

That we support the Federal Government making a decision based on merit not on politics.

Resolution 7

That the Vision New England Summit seeks Commonwealth Government support for Farmsafe Australia with a pilot program to examine a rebate for farmers to retro-fit safe access to tractors in the New England North West Region of New South Wales involving Farmsafe Tamworth and Farmsafe North West.

Resolution 8

That the Vision New England 2009 Summit acknowledges the significant contribution of the Australian Defence Forces to the New England community and supports the ongoing continuation of this positive relationship.

Resolution 9

That the community, business, university and government sectors acknowledge the benefits of working together and continue to work together to support and build on the strength, potential and resilience of Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal people in the New England region.

Resolution 10

That the Vision New England Summit requests the Commonwealth Government recognise the work of the North & North West Community Legal Service Inc and provide 5 year funding for the Service at an increased level.

Resolution 11

That this Summit encourages all relevant parties including those present to work with the higher education sector and UNE in particular to investigate ways in which to articulate courses and qualifications, encourage professional development and enhance tertiary education participation to address regional skills shortages.

That this Summit endorses UNE's initiative to undertake a regional survey to identify skills requirements into the future and undertakes to cooperate in this endeavour.

Resolution 12

That this Summit calls on Coalition and crossbench Senators to pass the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (Student Services and Amenities, and Other Measures) Bill 2009.

And encourage all organisations and individuals to write to the Senators as a matter of urgency in support of the Bill.

Resolution 13

That this Summit welcomes the Federal Government's intention to provide a new income loading for universities to support programs for attracting and retaining students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and welcomes the funding to be given to universities to build long term partnerships with schools and partnerships in disadvantaged areas to lift the numbers of students who participate in higher education. It supports moves by UNE to be part of these new initiatives and its moves to secure the funding that will ensure success of programs designed to increase the proportion of students from the region who take advantage of the opportunities to further their education.

Resolution 14

That the Summit endorses and seeks to cooperate with UNE's vision to develop further connection/consultation and activities designed to identify areas of research and development needs in particular local areas and to identify areas where UNE service and expertise provision could assist with further economic and community development and could take UNE breakthrough technologies and other innovations to the region.

Resolution 15

This Summit recognizes and supports UNE's actions in developing as a hub of digital technology in the region, recognizing the beneficial impact that this will have on educational delivery and regional development.

Resolution 16

That the Vision New England Summit supports examining the feasibility of rural dental programs at the UNE.

Resolution 17

This meeting therefore calls on the Federal Government to immediately implement a system of safe rates and conditions in the roads transport industry to combat the horrendous death toll by client pressures.

Resolution 18

The NSW planning process is flawed and does not recognise areas of high environmental and agricultural value of the region and the environmental risks posed to those values and that these flaws should be remediated by the following measures:

- ❖ Fund the Namoi Water Study
- ❖ Incorporate the findings of the Namoi Water Study into the mine development plan
- ❖ Amend the Mining Act to incorporate the following principles:
 - the inclusion of a trigger caused by any proposed release of all coal, gas or mineral exploration licences (EL).
 - This trigger would require that the proposed EL be placed in front of an interagency panel that would apply a model to be developed by the NSW Natural Resources Commission who would identify the risks to key environmental factors and would rule out the release of these designated high value areas.
 - The model developed by the NSW NRC would be structured in accordance with a terms of reference either scheduled to the Mining Act or included in that Act.

A right of appeals process to allow challenges seeking either inclusion or removal of designated areas is being considered as part of the amendments.

Resolution 19

This proposal seeks Federal money (approximately \$2.5 million a year for four years) to undertake an across state/territory project involving the *QuickSmart* program. This would allow over 240 school staffs to undertake professional learning and enable nearly 15,000 families to have their children enrol in *QuickSmart*.

Resolution 20

1. Support be provided to the establishment of bio-regional whole of region governance approaches to sustainability and that the New England Sustainability Strategy be developed as a model for adaptation and adoption for other bio-regions across the New England North West.
2. All government agencies be requested to formally consider their own interest and responsibilities in addressing the priorities for sustainability of the New England Region, including their direct participation in the development of the New England Sustainability Strategy and incorporation of key actions into their strategies, management plans and budgets.

Resolution 21

That the Summit supports the establishment of a “New England Institute” the function of which would be the overall regionalisation/development integration with membership from political (Federal/ State Representatives and local mayors), bureaucratic representatives from Federal and State Government Departments, non-government organisations, UNE, and other interested individuals.