



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](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)

**Web Page:** [www.tonywindsor.com.au](http://www.tonywindsor.com.au)

## Media Release

22 March 2010

### **Federal Ag Minister will accept new Bundarra/Barraba EC application and deal with it quickly**

Tony Burke, the Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry has written to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor indicating that he will accept a revised application for Exceptional Circumstance assistance for different boundaries of the Bundarra/Barraba area and treat it expeditiously.

The letter from the Minister was in response to representations made by Mr Windsor following the National Rural Advisory Council's (NRAC) recommendation to the Minister not to support an application from the NSW Government for the broader Bundarra region.

Mr Windsor has forwarded the letter to the Independent Member for Northern Tablelands, Richard Torbay and the farmers affected by the decision to expedite the revised application process.

"It's important that the revised application based on different boundaries be submitted as quickly as possible.

"Minister Burke has indicated that he will accept a new application on this basis and treat it expeditiously.

"I would therefore encourage all involved to work together towards this end," Mr Windsor said.

**A copy of Minister Burke's letter follows**



## The Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Mr Tony Windsor MP  
Member for New England  
PO Box 963  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

18 MAR 2010

Dear Mr Windsor 

I write regarding the outcome of the application for Exceptional Circumstances (EC) assistance for the Bundarra region. I acknowledge your strong representations regarding this matter.

As you know, the Australian Government announced on 11 March 2010 that it had accepted independent advice from the National Rural Advisory Council that a case for EC assistance for the Bundarra region had not met the EC criteria.

In forming its recommendation, the council examined all the information provided by the NSW Government. It also conducted an on-ground inspection of the area, met local producers and obtained advice from the Bureau of Rural Sciences, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and the NSW Department of Industry and Investment.

The process used by NRAC to conduct assessments is the same as was applied under the previous government. Membership of the Council has also remained unchanged as I have reappointed all of the members appointed by the previous government. I have always accepted NRAC's independent advice.

If NRAC recommends an area should not receive independent advice, the State Government can decide to resubmit a revised application with new boundaries.

If this occurs, I will urgently refer the revised application to NRAC for a fresh assessment and I give you my personal commitment that there would be no delays in processing the application.

Thank you again for you're the strong representations you have made to me on behalf of the people of the Bundarra region. I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Tony Burke