



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Windsor urges Shooters Party to back farmers

The Shooters Party is being urged to support farmers and vote against the NSW Government's proposed retrospective changes to land access legislation for mining exploration.

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor, believes the Shooters will come under a lot of pressure from the NSW Government to support their legislation and may be tempted to do a deal for the upcoming State Election at the expense of farmers.

Mr Windsor is reminding the Shooters Party not only of his support back in 1996, but also that their largest support base is in Country NSW, particularly in the Tamworth and Northern Tablelands area.

"There is no need for the Shooters Party to support the NSW Government's ridiculous reinvention of the law. They would know that banks and others with a financial interest in the land under which may lie coal should be informed of any activity that may impact on the capacity of their clients to earn income to repay their debt.

"They have a right to know that the value of the asset in which they have invested could be impacted by mining and it should be noted the impact is not only on land directly being explored, but also downstream of any underground aquifer.

"The Shooters need to recognise the land is not just a piece of ground with nothing on it. It's prime agricultural land that should have full investigation of the impacts of mining done on it prior to any exploration taking place. The Shooters need to now show support for those who have supported them over the years. This area is one of their highest voter support bases and I was the only one who voted against the gun laws when introduced in 1996.

"I therefore urge the Shooters Party to back the farmers on this issue and vote against the Government's bill when it is debated in their House," Mr Windsor said.

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