



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## Media Release

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# A slow start to tax reform but it is a start New England Electorate to be surveyed

The Government's response to the Henry Review of Australia's tax system has been described as a slow start by the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor sees the measures announced by the Government to be adopted as the first steps in a process that will continue in years to come but in an election year he can see that the Government did not want to introduce tax reforms that would alienate or confuse people.

"I think all Australians believe that our tax system needs reforming.

"It has grown to have so many amendments and to be so unwieldy that it causes confusion and despair even to the initiated.

"The Government's response to the Henry Tax Review is a slow start to reforming the system and one that was probably quite predictable in an election year when they don't want to scare the horses.

"I agree with the Resource Super Profits Tax on the mining industry and welcome its channelling back into upgrading infrastructure that will help reduce bottlenecks for export.

"The new tax is only payable in years when the mining industry is making super profits from booming conditions and it is not unreasonable.

"The Reserve Bank has over a number of years indicated to Government that our lack of infrastructure was causing bottlenecks for our export industries but these warnings had not been heeded and contributed to the Reserve Bank's decision to raise our interest rates.

"This investment in infrastructure will also see continuing employment opportunities in the construction industry post the economic stimulus spending that is currently keeping this sector moving," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor will now be asking the people of the New England Electorate what their thoughts are on the Government's proposals and further on the Henry Tax Review.

"The Government has put out their proposal for starting the reform of our tax system and I am keen to get feedback from the people of the New England Electorate so I will put together an information newsletter and seek the views of the community via a survey over the next couple of months.

"I look forward to then feeding these views of the community into the tax reform process," Mr Windsor said.

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