



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

1 June 2010

NDL Editor wrong again over

Barraba Pipeline Feasibility Funding “Announcement”

The Editor of the Northern Daily Leader compounds the commonly held view of political bias by incorrectly reporting the news of the announcement of Barraba pipeline funding according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor

Mr Windsor has corrected the comments of the Northern Daily Leader Editorial on Tuesday 1st June saying that the Editor should check his facts and read the media releases before making assertions that are easily shown to be wrong.

Mr Windsor said that he had worked closely with Mr Draper and Tamworth Regional Council’s Water Officer to achieve a three way split on the feasibility study.

“The joint media release circulated by Mr Draper and myself clearly ‘welcomed’ the announcement by the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Dr Mike Kelly MP and the NSW State Minister for Water Phil Costa.

“THEY made the announcement and Mr Draper and I welcomed it.

“THEY put out their media release at 11.29am and Mr Draper’s and my release went out at 11.54am.

“If the Northern Daily Leader was not in receipt of the media release from Dr Kelly and Mr Costa, that is not the fault of either Mr Draper or myself.

“It was also very obvious from Mr Draper and my release that we were not “announcing’ the funding but very happy to welcome it.

“It was clearly stated in Mr Draper’s and my media release that ‘The Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Dr Mike Kelly, made the announcement in conjunction with NSW Minister for Water, Philip Costa. Both pledged up to \$150,000, with the Tamworth Regional Council expected to also contribute a similar amount.’

“Our release then went on to say ‘Both local independent MP’s have welcomed the announcement.’

“If the Northern Daily Leader Editor was missing a media release from the Parliamentary Secretary and the Water Minister, he could have touched base with their offices to obtain it rather than accusing Mr Draper and I of what he may see as a political advantage.

“It is our job to liaise closely with the Ministers’ respective offices to achieve the outcome on behalf of the community and that is exactly what we did.

“I have always believed that it is the prerogative of the Minister to announce such funding arrangements and it is pretty obvious this is what happened,” Mr Windsor said.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868