



TONY WINDSOR B.Ec MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



MEDIA RELEASE

13 January 2012

Windsor to FOI NSW Minister and colleagues over Namoi CMA Chair Jim McDonald's dumping

Following on from raising his concerns over the dumping of Mr Jim McDonald as the Chair of the Namoi Catchment Management Authority, Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor will be lodging a Freedom of Information request asking for details about the process.

Mr Windsor said that he will be essentially seeking copies of emails and written correspondence between Boardroom Partners (the consultancy firm that made recommendations to the NSW Minister about the CMA Chairs' appointments), NSW Primary Industries Department and the NSW Minister Katrina Hodgkinson with regard to the Namoi CMA Chair's appointment process.

Mr Windsor will also seek copies of documents written and emailed between Nationals MLC, Trevor Khan, Nationals Member for Tamworth, Kevin Anderson, Nationals Member for Barwon, Kevin Humphries, Nationals Member for Dubbo, Troy Grant and their offices with Minister Hodgkinson and her agency with regard to their involvement in the process.

"This is a general request for the release of what has transpired in arriving at the decision to dump Namoi CMA Chairman Mr Jim McDonald, a man of impeccable credentials and the only applicant for the job as I understand it.

"I maintain that Mr McDonald's dumping smacks of the NSW Government wanting to return to subservient centralist policies rather than fostering independent local catchment processes and solutions.

"I also maintain that the process should be transparent for all to see.

"If the NSW Government and its Minister has nothing to hide, then the information I seek under the Freedom of Information guidelines shouldn't be a problem.

"The questions remain, why was Mr McDonald dumped in the first place and is the NSW Government just waiting for the dust to settle before an obedient political appointee is slipped into place?" Mr Windsor said.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT TONY WINDSOR MP 0427 668868

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