



MEDIA RELEASE – James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – Tuesday 9th April 2013

CSG AND WILTON AIRPORT – TIME FOR THE FEDERAL LIBERAL PARTY TO MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR

James Harker-Mortlock, independent candidate for Hume, made the following comments this morning :

“In recent days I have been visiting the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly areas of the Hume electorate. It is very clear to me that two issues are of great importance to local residents – the prospect of coal seam gas mining in the districts and the possibility of the location of the proposed second Sydney airport at Wilton. I have stated already my opposition to both of these proposals. These proposals could endanger both the local environment and, importantly, the Sydney water catchment. Also, they would impact significantly on the lifestyle of local residents who have invested in properties in a rural area in the reasonable expectation that they would not be disturbed by industrial development.

Whilst the NSW State Liberal Party has stated that coal seam gas mining will not take place in ‘residential areas’ it is unclear exactly what is meant by ‘residential’. In addition, most of Wingecarribee and Wollondilly, along with the rest of the electorate of Hume, consist of rural areas - leaving residents exposed to the possibility of coal seam gas mining taking place on their land. To date, the Federal Liberal Party has not made its position clear in regard to coal seam gas mining.

In regard to the Wilton airport proposal, the Federal Liberal Party has not provided any clear view of what its preferred location for Sydney’s second airport might be. Given that the Federal ALP Government has indicated that Wilton is its preferred location for the airport, then it is vital for the people of Wilton to know where the Federal Liberal Party stands on the issue.

Given the importance of both these issues to the electors of Hume, and especially those living in Wollondilly, the Liberal Candidate for Hume has an obligation to make clear now what the position of his Party is in regard to coal seam gas mining and the proposed location of Sydney’s second airport at Wilton. The Federal Liberal Party cannot continue to ignore the concerns of the residents of Hume on these and many other important issues.”

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