



ABS CONFIRMS HUME CORRIDOR AND REGIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

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Angus Taylor, the Liberal candidate for Hume has seized on recent growth figures just released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (**ABS**) to advance his argument for continued and increasing growth on the Hume corridor.

The ABS reports that between June 2011 and June 2012 Yass was the fastest growing region of the rural areas in New South Wales (up 290 people). Of larger regional centres across New South Wales, the city of Goulburn recorded one of the strongest population increases (up 280 people in the city itself).

Mr Taylor said:

“These figures suggest that the Hume corridor is an increasingly popular place to live, and it’s not hard to see why. If we are now growing faster than most other regional areas, it’s because it is a good place to live. This means we can confidently paint a picture for future, sustained and sustainable growth.

“Western and outer Sydney is utterly broken in terms of transport infrastructure, housing affordability and the way of life it offers to its residents. Canberra is increasingly unaffordable and congested.

“We have an opportunity to open up the corridor down the Hume Highway from Sydney to Canberra as a growth corridor, to take pressure off our cities. This means growing major centres that include Wollondilly, the Highlands, Goulburn and Yass. There is no reason why this cannot be extended into the Western part of the electorate with its still relative proximity to Canberra and Sydney. We can deliver a higher quality of life and lower costs of living.

“Affordable, quality housing is a critical part of the picture, but it is only part of the picture. We need to create job centres, and make sure the growth preserves the amenity, environment and quality of life we currently enjoy.

“This must be part of a broader regional development plan which incorporates improved transport, health, education and communications services.

“We must also be realistic. For example, we cannot simply assert that we should have high speed rail passing through without an economic case for high speed rail. It

needs to be part of an orchestrated and quite deliberate longer term regional development plan.”

“All levels of government have a role to play in this, and it will only happen if there is a concerted effort to develop a plan by all stakeholders.”

Mr Taylor said that this was not a new idea and many people had been thinking about it for decades:

“If elected, this is a long term agenda item which will define my contribution to the Eastern part of the Hume electorate. I will work with the community, businesses and all levels of Government to develop a detailed plan for a Hume growth corridor. The plan will be used to provide input in to various issues that will arise over time, including Council boundaries, transport planning (including submissions to Infrastructure Australia and Infrastructure NSW), telecommunications strategy and State and local planning bodies.

Mr Taylor said that his vision for growth on the Hume corridor was consistent with coalition’s broad commitment to jobs, infrastructure and services.

Please contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113.