



MEDIA RELEASE – Putting Hume First – Liberal Mallee Bull a Timely Reminder - James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – 1st June 2013

“The Liberal Party’s announcement that it will be running a candidate against the National Party in the seat of Mallee is a timely reminder of why I resigned from the National Party to run as an independent in Hume. I decided to run in Hume after the Liberals parachuted a candidate from Sydney into Hume following a back room deal by faceless party operatives in Sydney which prevented the Nationals from running a candidate.” said James Harker-Mortlock, former Chairman of the Burrinjuck Nationals and Independent Candidate for Hume.

“In 2010, the Liberals decided competition was a good thing. They ran in Riverina against the Nationals. They got walloped.

In 2012, fearing that they would also get walloped in Hume, the Liberals decided competition was a bad thing. They bullied the National Party out of running candidate in Hume as they knew that Hume was a natural National Party seat.

Apparently, in 2013, the Liberals have decided that competition is once again a good thing. So the Liberals are running against the Nationals in Mallee.

The Liberal Party is not a friend of the National Party.

Statements by the Liberal Candidate in Hume that he is somehow a Coalition candidate are designed to paint a picture of happy co-operation. This is not the case. The Liberal Party did a deal behind the scenes in regard to Hume because it wants the National Party neutered and ultimately destroyed.

Having the Liberal Party as a friend is like putting your trust in a brown snake. The Liberals look upon the Coalition arrangements as a one way street of extracting concessions from the Nationals for their own benefit whilst delivering nothing in return. It is a case of ‘do as I say, not do as I do’.

The recent public funding debacle demonstrated that the Liberals would prefer to do a deal privately with the Labor Party than be honest with the Australian people. The deal was designed to favour mainly the Liberals and the ALP at the expense of the smaller players. The Nationals would have been expected to go cap in hand to the Liberals asking for ‘more please sir’.

After 39 years of fighting for the Liberals and Nationals, I have stated that I will be providing my preferences to the Liberal Party in the up and coming poll. Predictably, I have received no such reciprocal offer from the Liberal Party candidate, who has been a member of the Liberal Party for less than half of my years of service to the Coalition. I will be watching with interest to see what the Liberal Candidate decides to do – exchange preferences with a former National and still Coalition supporter, or do a deal with the ALP. Which is it Mr. Taylor?”

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