



**MEDIA RELEASE – Putting Hume First – Oakdale Declared CSG Free – Taylor Still on the Barbed Wire Fence - James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – 5th June, 2013**

***“Oakdale is to be congratulated for declaring itself a CSG free community. This move reflects the concerns of local residents in regard to potential CSG mining, particularly in the Sydney water catchment areas nearby.***

*This action is a reminder to governments that the foundation of successful public policy is public support.*

*Sadly, Jai Rowell, the local Liberal Wollondilly MP who supported the declaration, has been let down by his federal colleagues. It is notable that Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, did not attend the declaration. He appears still to be trying to straddle both sides of a barbed wire fence on this issue - wishing to look concerned for residents whilst his party is increasingly in bed with the CSG industry*

*Last week Ian Macfarlane, the Federal Liberal Shadow Minister for Resources, was reported in ‘The Guardian’ as saying that a Coalition government will ‘get around’ new federal environmental laws regarding the ‘water trigger’. The new laws are being introduced by the current ALP federal government to enable the federal environmental minister to intervene in an approval process where a mining development might impact upon water systems. Macfarlane apparently believes that this will not prevent a Coalition government from handing the administration of approvals over to the states. The problem with this plan is that the main interest of the states will be in raising royalties, which inevitably makes them biased umpires in an approval process.*

***It is time for the Liberal Party to explain in detail exactly what its intentions are in regard to coal seam gas development. How EXACTLY will its proposed ‘one stop shop’ for environmental approvals work? Until the Liberal Party does so, it cannot claim any mandate whatsoever for its ‘one stop shop’ policy. It is time also for the Liberal Candidate in Hume to explain how this proposed policy will impact local residents in Hume.”***

**ABOUT JAMES HARKER-MORTLOCK.**

James is a former Chairman of the Burrinjuck Nationals and was Campaign Director for Katrina Hodgkinson at the 2011 state election. Whilst in the Nationals, James served on their state Natural Resources and Energy Policy Committee covering issues such as strategic agricultural lands, aquifer interference, wind turbines, and other topics of relevance to rural Australia. In 2012, after a back-room deal was done with the Liberal Party which prevented the National Party from running a candidate of their own in Hume, James resigned from the National Party to stand as an independent right of centre candidate for the seat. James has served the Coalition for many years since his days involved in student politics at Sydney University in the 1970’s. James ran as an endorsed Liberal candidate in the seats of Parramatta (1983) and Sydney (1984) after a stint working at the Liberal Party Federal Secretariat in 1979. In 2004 he ran as an independent candidate for the Senate under the ‘Big Push for Small Business’ banner. He provided his preferences to the Coalition at that election. If elected to represent Hume, James will align with the Nationals. James lives with his partner, Fiona Fox on a wool and fat lamb breeding property ‘Blackburn’, north of Yass. James maintains also his long term involvement with the electronic publishing industry. James has two children, Fred and Julia, who live and work overseas. James graduated from the University of Sydney in 1978 with an Honours Degree in Arts.

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