



MEDIA RELEASE – James Harker-Mortlock – Independent for Hume – Wednesday 12th June 2013

GRAINCORP – REJECT THE TAKEOVER - NATIONALS TO BE CONGRATULATED ON STRONG STAND

“The proposed takeover of GrainCorp by Archer Daniels Midland Company of the USA should be rejected by the Federal Treasurer on the grounds that it is against the national interest.” said James Harker-Mortlock, independent candidate for Hume. *“The National Party is to be congratulated for the strong stand it has taken in opposing the potential takeover. I support the Nationals position 100%.*

GrainCorp, originally the NSW Grain Elevators Board, has been built by Australians for Australians since 1917. It is a terrific success story in Australian agriculture. The sale of GrainCorp to Archer Daniels Midland would see the loss to foreign ownership of Australia’s last large agribusiness. If the sale proceeds, decisions on the marketing and sale of Australian grain will be made in foreign boardrooms, governed by the interests of foreign shareholders and grain growers, not by the best interests of Australian producers, consumers and the nation as a whole.

I note that two of my fellow candidates for the seat of Hume – Bruce Nicholson of the Katter Party and Adrian Van Der Bryl of the Christian Democrats - have joined me in seeking to prevent this takeover by signing my petition on Change.org. I call upon the other candidates, especially those representing the Liberal and the Labor Parties. to join us as well.

The online petition may be found at : <http://www.change.org/en-AU>. I will be circulating also a formal written petition for signature and formal presentation to the Federal Parliament. ”

ENDS

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. James was involved with the Yass farmers’ action group seeking reform of the LHPA system in New South Wales. 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’s community involvement includes support for over twenty years for intervention in East Timor and as Secretary of the Australia-Solomon Islands Friendship Association lobbying for a peace keeping mission to be sent to the Solomons. He is currently a board member of the charity Australian Desert Expeditions and Treasurer of the University of Sydney Union Alumni and Friends Association and a Committee Member of the Sydney Arts and Social Sciences Alumni Association of the University of Sydney. 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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