

Nationals, Libs in Hume 'truce' infuriates Hodgkinson

Coalition agreement

By TOM SEBO

MEMBER for Burrinjuck Katrina Hodgkinson has lambasted her own party over its decision not to contest the seat of Hume at the next federal election.

Widely tipped to be the

Nationals' candidate had they decided to run, Ms Hodgkinson said not opposing the Liberal Party was the wrong call.

"This week's decision by the small number of individuals that constitute the central executive of The Nationals to not stand a candidate in Hume will be deeply

disappointing for local branch members in this region," she said.

"We have a very strong branch membership throughout and surrounding the Hume electorate, many of whom have been ready and willing since 1998 to work like Trojans to restore the seat to its former National Party status, and

those members are going to be bitterly disappointed by this decision.

"More people than I can remember have expressed their firm view to me that The Nationals must recontest Hume when the sitting member retired, and many have also expressed their willing-

ness to stand for pre-selection, or a passion for working on the campaign.

"I strongly believe they should have been afforded that opportunity, and the decision made by central executive is wrong.

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Digging in for community

ARMED with gloves, trowels and buckets of water, about 100 residents dug deep yesterday for the Goulburn Wetlands, and with it, the community.

They were there to celebrate the launch of Friends & Residents Of Goulburn Swamplands (FROGS) and to plant hundreds of native seedlings around the Wetlands' shoreline.

"This is community in action," The Goulburn Group's Urs Walterlin said of yesterday's public turnout.

Member for Goulburn Pru Goward will donate a bird hide for the site, and hopes other local politicians follow suit.

Pictured left preparing a seedling for its new home is Jacob Graham, 13, and below is Tara-Mae Neilson, 11.

The Wetlands are located along May Street, Goulburn east.



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