



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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‘End of the beginning of the end’ of the Nats with admission by defecting Senator

Independent member for New England, Tony Windsor has described the comments of National Party defecting Senator Julian McGauran as ‘the end of the beginning of the end’.

“Senator McGauran is quoted as saying that there is no longer any real policy difference between the Liberals and the Nationals in Victoria and ‘As the politics is in the state of Victoria ... the Liberal party now is and will remain the preferred rural party, and adding ‘I see no other party in rural Victoria with a chance for growth.’

These comments from the long standing Victorian Senator is an admission that there is no difference between the Liberal Party and the National Party and that the National Party has lost its relevance on country issues.

It is a real indictment of the National Party that one of their number, in fact their Senate Whip, has decided that there is no real policy difference between the Liberals and Nationals so he feels so disenchanted that he has to move to the senior coalition partner’s Senate team,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says that it is not only the Victorian Nationals who are being overrun by the Liberal Party.

“The NSW Nationals and all bar one Queensland National may as well follow Senator McGauran to the Liberal Party.

The Nationals have bowed so often now to their Liberal masters that they have holes in the knees of their pants.

They have done as they have been told by the Liberals for so long they have forgotten who they represent and are sent back to their country electorates to tell and sell the message of the Liberals which is not always the best for country people, selling it in the name of compromise for the greater good,” Mr Windsor said.

“Senator McGauran is admitting that because the Nationals have allowed themselves to be puppets of the Liberals, there is now no perceived difference between them.

The eventual result of this logic is that country people will be ruled by two city based parties – Liberal and Labor.

The admission that the Nationals are useless by one of their own opens the way for real country representatives to step up at the next election,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor said he would be raising the issue at the Independents’ conference (ICAN) to be held in Canberra on Saturday 4th February.

For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868