



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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# Media Release

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## **Cobb votes with Labor to silence wheat grower's voice Only Independents stick up for country constituents again**

National Party Member for Parkes John Cobb last night voted with the Labor Party to silence the true voice of Australia's wheat growers when he opposed an amendment to the Wheat Marketing Amendment Bill aimed at giving all of Australia's wheat growers a say in the future marketing of Australia's export wheat by conducting a poll of what they want to happen.

Mr Cobb voted with Labor against the amendment moved by the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor and seconded by Independent Member for Calare, Peter Andren.

"Mr Andren and I wanted ALL of Australia's wheat growers to have a say in what happens with THEIR future rather than be represented by industry groups that have proven in the past to be puppets of the Government on major issues that will impact badly on country people. However, Mr Cobb and his fellow National Party colleagues obviously don't want to hear directly from those most impacted on by any changes to export wheat marketing arrangements.

It's a very sad day that sees Mr Cobb, a farmer himself and representative of many wheat growers fall into line behind something that surely he knows is the right thing to do but because of his loyalty to the party before his people he even voted with the Labor Party to silence the wheat growers.

People at the Parkes Rally of wheat growers on the single desk issue earlier this year will remember the way Mr Cobb stood on the stage boldly telling wheat growers that he and the National Party would not back down on the single desk issue.

Yet when it came down to the wire of giving wheat growers the opportunity to have a direct say through a poll of all of them on the issue, he went weak at the knees and didn't even bother to speak in this crucial debate where it mattered in the Parliament and worse than that then sided with the Labor Party to vote the amendment down.

At the next election, the people of Parkes should remember his attitude towards them and treat him with the same contempt by voting him out and putting someone in who will truly represent them to the Government and not just bring the Government message back to the people of Parkes.

They deserve better and should demand better," Mr Windsor said. Mr Windsor's amendment read:

### **66 Registered wheat growers to be given opportunity to vote on options for change**

Before further changes to the legislative provisions governing the marketing of Australia's wheat are presented to the Parliament the Minister must ensure that all registered wheat growers are given the opportunity to vote on options for change.

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