



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Calare may yet be Independent

The seat of Calare formerly held by the very popular Independent the late Peter Andren for over eleven years may yet be won by Independent candidate Gavin Priestley according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor has been keeping an eye on counting in Calare where Mr Priestley has been narrowing the gap on the Labor Party in primary votes to now be just 829 behind them whilst the National Party candidate and now former Minister John Cobb has stalled on below 50% of the vote he needs to get without having to go to preferences to take the seat.

“Calare is at a very interesting point in counting and is going to depend on where preference flows go.

Currently Independent candidate Gavin Priestley is running third on primary votes behind the National Party and the Labor Party.

However the Greens candidate is running at 1,950 primary votes with his how to vote card suggesting his supporters give their second preference to Mr Priestley enabling Mr Priestley to leap frog the Labor Party into second spot and then receive the majority of the Labor Party preferences which could see Mr Priestley take the seat.

Whilst there are still nearly 12,000 pre-poll and postal votes to be counted, the way Mr Priestley has clawed back the difference between himself and the Labor Party should be creating some concern in the National Party camp.

It would be a major upset for the National Party that has already lost two seats and were very confident of winning Calare after the redistribution for this election.

It would also be quite ironic if Mr Priestley snatches Calare back for the Independents.

I'm not sure about this but if Mr Priestley does go on to win the seat I'd have to think that there have been 'other forces' at work helping him.

Peter Andren's benchmark of representation of the people of Calare may yet continue.

I certainly hope so," Mr Windsor said.

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