



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Nats generational change shifts to Liberals Joyce should become Independent

The National Party's election of its new leadership team to include a Country Liberal Party Senator as their Deputy has amazed the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor and drawn a call from Mr Windsor for National Party Senator Barnaby Joyce to seriously consider becoming an Independent.

"For the National Party to elect a Liberal in sheep's clothing as their Deputy Leader of the Party and Leader in the Senate is just amazing.

Senator Nigel Scullion comes from the Country Liberal Party from the Northern Territory which has in the past had a President of the Liberal Party of Australia, Shane Stone (famous for his 'mean and tricky' description of the Howard Government) in its ranks.

Whilst I realise the National Party has lost numbers in the Parliament and those in the former Leadership team have decided they didn't want to be on the Opposition front bench, I never thought they would elect a Liberal to help lead them into the future," Mr Windsor said.

In light of the National Party's overlooking their own Members of the Parliament Mr Windsor is encouraging Nationals Senator Barnaby Joyce to become an Independent.

"For the National Party to overlook Barnaby Joyce as part of their leadership team is a mistake.

Whilst I haven't agreed with everything Barnaby has done since becoming a National Party Senator nearly three years ago, he at least has stood up for country people and tried to negotiate better outcomes unlike his Liberal sympathiser mates.

As an Independent in the current make up of the Senate, Barnaby could really achieve some positive outcomes for country people by negotiating and working with the new Labor Government.

It's a pity that the rest of the National Party representatives didn't follow his lead.

Then the National Party may well have remembered the people who they were in the Parliament to represent and those people may well have remembered them at the ballot box.

If anyone ever had any doubts about the Nationals being subservient to the Liberals in coalition, then this act of electing a Liberal to their Deputy Leader's position should be proof positive that they really have joined the Liberals in everything other than name," Mr Windsor said.

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