



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TONY WINDSOR MP
INDEPENDENT
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5
259 Peel Street
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

All Mail: PO Box 963
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Ph: (02) 6761 3080
Toll Free: 1300 301 839
Fax: (02) 6761 3380
e-mail: Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au
Web Page: www.tonywindsor.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

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“Noodle Nationals” – Something for everyone

The rantings of the National Party since its massive loss of former Deputy Prime Minister, Mark Vaile’s seat of Lyne have earned it another new name – the Noodle Nationals - from the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor says that the constantly changing of views expressed by the Nationals and the mixed messages across Australia show that the role of the National Party as a voice for country Australians is in its terminal stages.

“Nationals, Federal Leader Warren Truss said on Saturday night after the Lyne by-election result indicated the National Party only received 22% of the primary vote that the Federal Nationals would examine the option of divorcing itself from the Coalition.

On Monday Mr Truss said the Federal Nationals had only just signed a Coalition agreement and it was working very well.

In Queensland, Mr Truss has supported a merger of the Queensland Nationals with the Queensland Liberals.

Queensland Nationals Federal Senator Barnaby Joyce has stated going it alone may be the way to “succeed” after the National Party result in Western Australia and the flogging in Lyne.

Yet Senator Joyce only weeks ago supported a Nationals merger in Queensland with the Liberals.

NSW Nationals Leader, Andrew Stoner, who happens to live in Lyne, is opposed to a merger or going it alone.

“Me too’ NSW Senator John Williams, supports a “go it alone version” as espoused by Senator Joyce.

Both Senators have as their leader in the Senate, Northern Territory Senator Nigel Scullion, who is not a member of the National Party. Senator Scullion is a member of the Country Liberal Party - another variation on the theme.

No wonder people are confused and the Nationals are losing seats.

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

Locally we have the Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, concerned about losing influence if the Nationals didn't hold the balance of power.

Mr Coulton may be interested to know that since Federation there has not been a Federal Government formed without a country MP and therefore country Australia has always had the numbers to hold the balance of power," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that the east coast Nationals, to their shame, have participated in decimating the 'balance of power' potential by welding themselves to one side, the Liberals but the Western Australian Nationals are possibly on the right track.

"It's a breath of fresh air to see the Independent Nationals in WA standing up for their constituents, where the east coast Nationals have failed dismally.

Country Australia needs MP's that use their vote for their people - not continually compromising to maintain a presence in a government.

Country people have 30% of the vote, and whilst that will never be a majority, used strategically, as being touted in WA by the Independent Nationals, that vote can ALWAYS determine the shape of government and policies impacting on country people.

The cross benches don't have any splinters on them," Mr Windsor said.