



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Polls good for Country Independents

Polling trends suggesting disillusionment with the three major parties will present opportunities for Country Independents at the next Federal election according to the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor said that latest polling indicating a drop in support for major political parties highlights the lack of real conviction and leadership from both the Government and the Opposition.

“The non-major party vote is currently at 24% which would auger well for Independent candidates at the next election.

“Combine these figures with suggestions of a hung parliament and that could make life very interesting in some country seats.

“The Prime Minister’s handling of the advertising campaign against allegations from the mining industry compounds a growing problem for the Government – that of credibility.

“Parallel to the drop in confidence in the Prime Minister is the populist “to and fro” policy positions of the Opposition Leader in an “anything goes” or “whatever it takes” approach to winning the next election,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor believes that whilst the peak of 24% is a record analysis of Newspoll, it shows that over the last 3 months 20.3% of voters don’t support the Government or the Opposition.

This compares to 14.4% at the last election – a jump of nearly 50%

“The figures are good for Independent candidates who in Australia’s preferential system can win in some circumstances with a primary vote in the low 20%’s.

“People are crying out for conviction and integrity in politics.

“One of the reasons John Howard was so successful was not because people loved him but because they thought he believed in certain policies.

“Today voters are left wondering what the policies of the major parties are.

“The Nationals vote has plummeted during the same period from 5.5% at the last election to an average 3.5% over the past three months – a massive drop in support of 36%,” Mr Windsor said.

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