

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

RURAL - REGIONAL - RECREATIONAL

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MEDIA RELEASE

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New political party set to obtain registration

Victoria's newest political party, Country Alliance, will be officially registered this week.

Alliance spokesperson, Russell Bate, said that the Victorian Electoral Commission has advised his party of its intention to publish a notice in the Government Gazette of its decision to register the party on Thursday.

"This is a real credit to those who worked behind the scenes to provide country Victoria with an alternative party that will ensure representation of local issues, and to those groups who have supported us" he said.

He said the new party was committed to providing rural and regional Victoria with an effective political voice.

"Our constituents include four wheel drivers, regional business people, shooters, the timber community, and farmers who are all concerned about changes to the way the upper house of parliament will work after the next state election in November next year."

The introduction of proportional representation could hand control of the Upper House to the Greens – a possibility which Mr Bate says has contributed to the formation of Country Alliance.

"Our constituents are the original conservationists who have actively promoted the responsible use of our resources. However there is a big difference between responsible conservation, and the minority of environmental extremists who we are concerned about" he said.

"The party will be an alliance of candidates welded by a set of common values but are effectively independents in terms of their policies on local issues. The common values include the preservation of tradition, culture, views and aspirations – and ensuring that we do not end up being dictated to about what is or is not good for us" Mr Bate said.