

# COUNTRY ALLIANCE

## *MEDIA RELEASE*

### **Locals steer Victoria's newest political party**

Regional Victorians in the Mildura area looking to make a difference and voice their opinions can now add their names to Victoria's newest political party, Country Alliance.

A quarter of the party's executive reside in the Mildura region and are well aware of the pressing issues facing the region.

Local Fiona Hilton-Wood, one of the founders of the party said that "the new party was committed to providing rural and regional Victoria with an effective political voice."

The party is an alliance of members 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 by city centric policies.

"Our members consist of both regional and urban Victorians who are concerned about the impact of government policies, driven by uninformed urban values, on their communities, their businesses, their jobs, their culture and their recreation.

State policies of Country Alliance include the relocation of key State agencies out of the metropolitan areas and into regional Victoria, equity and fairness of the distribution to road funding, better management and bushfire controls of National Parks, the ability to be able to collect fallen timber from public land within 500 metres of adjoining private property without the need for licences, the protection of irrigators water entitlement rights and a total opposition to a toxic waste dump being located anywhere in regional Victoria.

Mrs Hilton-Wood stated “It is important to note that we have fewer policies than other political parties, largely because we are effectively an alliance of independents. This allows each candidate to focus more upon local issues and provides the community with a more effective representation of their area.”

“I am of the firm belief that none of the major parties are dedicated to the interests of country and rural areas, Country Alliance allow the voices of those who live in the country to be heard” she concluded.

People interested in finding out more about Country Alliance should view the website [www.countryalliance.org.au](http://www.countryalliance.org.au) or contact the party administrator on 03 9876 9902 by phone, or by email [admin@countryalliance.org](mailto:admin@countryalliance.org) .

For media comment

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