

# COUNTRY ALLIANCE

## *MEDIA RELEASE*

### **Alliance enters fluoridation row**

Victoria's newest political party, Country Alliance, has entered the row over the fluoridation of Horsham's water supply.

Party spokesperson, Russell Bate said that the Government needed to do more to involve the local community in the decision making process than has occurred to date.

"My understanding from people in Horsham is that the Government has relied almost completely on its own bureaucracies to decide what is or is not good for the community, without involving the very people who will be affected by the outcome," he said.

"The feedback from our Horsham branch has suggested that there is considerable concern within the community and that more consultation is required. This is too important an issue to be decided without reference to the community and the lack of consultation can only exacerbate differences within it."

Mr Bate added that lack of effective consultation has been a recurring problem for country people, and will be one of its main platforms for next year's state election.

"Whether it is flouridation, the mountain cattlemen or access to national parks, lack of proper consultation has been an ongoing issue of concern for us.

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