

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

Hodge supports Libs on technical colleges

Country Alliance's local candidate for the Upper House, Miles Hodge, has supported Liberal Leader Ted Baillieu's call for more technical colleges in his reply to the State Government's budget.

Mr Hodge said Mr Baillieu's call was welcome, but said that there was a greater need for the colleges to be located in regional Victoria than in Melbourne.

"Country people have suffered the demise of their technical colleges, which has denied our kids the opportunity to develop trade skills," he said

"I would hope that any Government - Labor or Liberal - will see the return of technical colleges, but it would be a wasted opportunity if they ended up in the city. One of the greatest problems faced by country areas is the fact that young people trained in the city tend to stay in the city and don't get to discover the economic and social benefits of a rural lifestyle." he said.

Mr Hodge said his party would support any initiative that was good for country Victoria, and hoped to pick up several seats at this year's state election in November.

"We're more interested in campaigning on important issues rather than playing party politics such as we have seen with the sale of Telstra and now the Snowy Hydro," he said.

"People in the country have every right to feel abandoned. They just want effective representation, and that's what I promise I will provide to them."

For more information: Miles Hodge, Candidate for Western Victoria Region
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