

COUNTRY ALLIANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

New party set to unplug pokies

Country Alliance's candidates for Northern and Western Victoria say they will push for a rapid roll-back in the number of poker machines in Victoria, if their party gains the balance of power at this year's state election.

Candidate for Western Victoria Region, Miles Hodge, and candidate for Northern Victoria Region, Fred Goodwin, said that poker machines were a major contributor to problem gambling in the community with no corresponding benefit.

"The state earns about one billion dollars in tax, but it comes at the expense of what is an anti-social activity that is tearing families apart," they said in a joint statement.

They said it should be up to the state government to manage the state budget without the need for revenue from poker machines.

"The strong vote against poker machines in South Australia where two candidates were elected on a 'no pokies' platform, shows how strong an issue this is across our community", they said.

"We're pleased to see that the Greens have now come out with a policy similar to ours, although ours goes much further at addressing the problem. We put the importance of the family first."

Last month, Country Alliances announced it would limit poker machines to racing venues and casinos, and reducing the overall number of poker machines.

Miles Hodge, Candidate for Western Victoria Region (ie Horsham to Melton to Geelong to Portland)	Fred Goodwin, Candidate for Northern Victoria Region (ie Mildura to Wodonga to Healesville to Bendigo)
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Website: www.countryalliance.org