

Branxholme police station must remain open: Hodge

Country Alliance's local candidate for the Upper House seat of Western Victoria Region, Miles Hodge, has called on the State Government and Victoria Police to better explain the decision to close the Branxholme police station.

"If this is the start of a push to close one man police stations across the state, then it begs the question of what more can the Government take from our communities?" he said.

"Is this the reward country people get for being more honest and law abiding than their city cousins?"

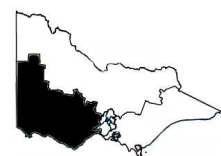
"The local policeman is a vital part of a small community and provides many more services than just law enforcement. Once again the residents of small country towns and districts will be forced to travel sometimes great distances to access services provided by the local 'cop shop' that city dwellers take for granted."

Mr Hodge said that bureaucrats who provide advice on where funds should be allocated need to better understand the needs of regional communities. He said that if there was a reason why the Branxholme police station needed to be closed, then that should at least be explained to the community.

"Most of if not all of the bureaucrats in charge of these decisions are city based and think that the world ends at the tram terminus. They cannot possibly be in a position to understand the concerns of country people."

Mr Hodge said that if elected, he would push for the retention of one man police stations in his electorate.

Contact: Miles Hodge, Candidate for Western Victoria Region
(ie Horsham to Melton to Geelong to Portland)



Website: www.countryalliance.org

Admin: admin@countryalliance.org / ph 0425 746 066