

Lee calls for extension of Exemption Circumstances Funding

Country Alliance Candidate Danny Lee is calling for all forms of Government Exceptional Circumstances Funding to be extended to include the business community in declared areas.

“Currently farmers are the only ones eligible for this support” Mr. Lee continued, “Farmers should receive this valuable support, but other sectors of rural communities are equally affected in times of hardship”.

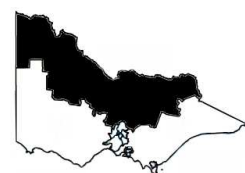
“When a region falls on tough times, sometimes the first people to suffer are the businesses which support the rural industries, and the small businesses in the towns. Farming is an entire community thing, so if any form of assistance is available, it should be available for everyone”, Mr. Lee added.

Mr. Lee stated, “Then there are the forgotten businesses not involved in farming, but are on their knees after years of exceptional drought circumstances, such as the tourism operators around Lake Eildon. Examples are the house boat industry, tourist park operators, fishing and camping store suppliers, all of whom have not had a sustainable income for years”.

He concluded that, “If the present rules or qualifying criteria do not account for people or industries other than farming, then the rules need to be amended to make sure that they do in future”.

“I am committed to changing the rules for Government funding in times of exceptional circumstances, such as with the prolonged drought that we are currently experiencing, so that everybody who qualifies, can have equal access to assistance in tough times”.

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