

Call for overhaul of regional courts

Country Alliance Candidate Danny Lee is backing Independent Member for Mildura, Russell Savage, on his stand over the courts' failure to properly deal with law breakers in regional areas.

“Mr. Savage is absolutely correct in claiming that the system of rotating Magistrates is dealing too leniently with repeat offenders. The community has a right to expect better, and the courts have a duty to protect the community”, Mr Lee said.

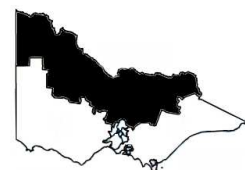
“The Police are doing their job by apprehending offenders, but the courts are not supporting the Police by handing down appropriate punishments”.

Mr. Lee said it was sapping the morale of police to arrest perpetrators only to have a visiting magistrate show more concern for the criminal, than for the victim.

“Towns like Mildura need a permanent Magistrate so that the court is then accountable to the community. It is too easy for Magistrates to breeze into town, make soft decisions, then leave the police and the community to sort out the mess”, he said.

Mr. Lee added, “If I am successful in the election, I will make it a priority to remove restrictions which stop the Police from properly doing their job, and to make sure the courts issue sentences which fit the crime”.

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