

Greens dummy spit over preferences

Country Alliance says that the Greens' complaints over Labor's decision to preference it ahead of the Greens in the Northern and Western Victoria Regions, were unrealistic.

Party spokesman, Russell Bate, said Labor's decision to put the new party ahead of the Greens has provided proper recognition of the value to regional communities of outdoor pursuits including fishing and hunting and rural industries including a sustainable timber industry.

He said the Greens have been casual with the truth in their claims that Country Alliance policies would lead to "a free-for-all for logging, shooting, hunting and prospecting in all of our precious, publicly-owned land."

"On the other hand the Greens policies in the areas of taxation and drug use are extreme and unacceptable to most Australians and certainly to regional Victorians and this has been reflected in Labor's decision to preference us ahead of the Greens," he said.

"Rural Victoria is tired of paying the price of the Greens simplistic "lock it and leave it" approach to land management. The proliferation of pest animals and vegetation and the huge cost of bush fires are the direct result of the sort of simplistic land management policies proposed by the Greens".

He said that the Greens lost out in regional electorates because in Labor's view, Country Alliance's policies warranted greater support than theirs. He said the Greens would win greater favour from Labor if they produced more realistic and acceptable policies on taxation and drug use and dampened their demands on extreme animal liberation policies such as abolishing rodeos and the display of livestock.

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