

VOTE 1
MARK RODDA

YOUR INDEPENDENT VOICE for the Electorate of Tamworth

MARK
1
RODDA

*Passionate
Community
Representation*

NSW STATE ELECTION - 23 MARCH 2019

Authorised by Mark Rodda, 33 Kathleen Street, South Tamworth NSW 2340

MEDIA RELEASE

TAXPAYER FUNDED PROPAGANDA SHOULD STOP

23 January 2018

Mark Rodda, Independent Candidate for the Electorate of Tamworth has hit out at the blatant waste and political bribery of the NSW Nationals in the latest flurry of flyers posted to voters at taxpayers' expense this week.

"This week alone some voters have complained to me that they had received four (4) flyers issued by The Nationals with blatant party-political devices such as the candidates name and picture and party name and logo and all paid for by the NSW taxpayer", Rodda said.

"Two flyers are featured like \$100 notes and a duplicate previously sent in November 2018, another is about methamphetamine and the last is the Postal Vote Application form which if completed is reply-paid returned to the local MP's office where his staff will populate the information on the party's secret voter database for future mail-outs and then send the voter a dedicated How-To-Vote card at election time. The worst feature of this mail-out exercise is the sheer quantity and cost to the taxpayers out of the excessive \$91,805 the MP receives annually to promote himself under the guise of a Parliamentary Entitlements", Rodda said.

"With an election just two months away it is a blight on democracy that the taxpayers of NSW are paying major party's like The Nationals to promote themselves this close to an election out of the public purse. It is simply unfair and an unnecessary impost on taxpayers. While the blackout for the use of an MP's Parliamentary Entitlements ends on Australia Day, it is quite clear in an election year there should be at least a six (6) month ban prior to an election on MP's using taxpayers' funds for blatant party-political advertising masquerading as information flyers".

“While I acknowledge that complaining about a few taxpayer’ funded flyers may seem petty, it is the impact on our democracy that I am concerned about. If The Nationals were genuine about trying to educate voters about State funds available for families, the dangers of drugs or the availability of Postal Vote applications, surely they could do it with just one mailout costing the taxpayers far less, using less paper, perhaps delivered over a couple of months not a couple of days and not within cooee of a NSW election. This sort of expensive blatant party-political promotion has the odour of electoral bribery”, Rodda concluded.

ENDS

For further information please contact Mark Rodda on 0448 750 302.

