



MEDIA RELEASE

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE MARK RODDA'S 2019 WISH LIST

31 December 2018

Mark Rodda Independent candidate for the Electorate of Tamworth has taken the opportunity to wish the residents of this region a safe, happy, prosperous and hopefully wet 2019. "The next few months will be a huge challenge for many people within our electorate and the 2019 State election will be a big personal challenge for me. I am confident I will be able to demonstrate to many disillusioned people concerned about the future of their country that there are clearer independent alternatives to the major parties. Candidates with leadership and the desire to want to put the people of the Electorate of Tamworth first not a party mouthpiece," Rodda said.

"People I speak to want a genuine vocal community advocate that will put the electorate's needs and wants first, not party donors and vested interests as is the case now. They want a someone genuinely representing their needs and concerns not a puppet of the party", Rodda said.

"My wish list for 2019 is for genuine community focussed advocacy and representation. I would like to see a NSW Government that will take the service and infrastructure needs of rural NSW seriously, not focussed on unnecessary Sydney stadium knockdown and rebuilds or the wasteful Sydney light rail project. Gunnedah needs a new hospital and Tamworth needs a new Banksia Acute Mental Health unit. Our nurses also need support and a 1/4 patient ratio. Walcha needs a new water supply. NSW TAFE needs to be returned to the Education portfolio and properly funded as well as course fees slashed to enable rural kids to get an affordable tertiary education, particularly those that don't have the interest or resources to attend a university."

Despite funding announced for the Grain Valley Road upgrade Rodda would like to see it actually completed, along with Rangari road between Manilla and Boggabri, work on Port Stephens Cutting commenced near Ogunbil and parts of the Werris Creek Road upgraded. "I would also like to see the blight on Tamworth, the section of the New England Highway between Calala Lane and Jack Smyth Drive, Tamworth

upgraded. This section of road wasn't on the Government's radar until lobbying from alternate candidates, Rodda said. It's incredible that after almost 8 years of this Government things only become a priority when their MP is put under some electoral pressure."

"It is also disappointing that many infrastructure projects announced by the Government have only occurred in the last 3-4 months, not uniformly delivered over the last 3 1/2 years. Why should infrastructure spends using taxpayers' money be made so close to an election, making rural people wait like this for vital infrastructure? Rural people, farmers, pensioners and businesses need cheaper electricity promised by the Government at the time privatisation was announced in June 2014, not the situation actually delivered", Rodda said.

"In 2019 I would like to see a number of exploration licence buy-backs including Shenhua 7223 and PEL 1 and 12 as well as proper consideration about the expansion proposal of Vickery mine toward the Namoi River, to bring to an end the ongoing arguments over landuse as well as to give our region's farmers impacted by these proposals some confidence that their futures are safe from harm. You can't say on the one hand you are concerned about the welfare of farmers impacted by drought but not be concerned if they are impacted by a conflict with a mining proposal. I would also like to see a significant portion of the royalty revenue derived from our region's extractive industries returned to the region via a genuine Royalties for Regions policy which mandates 20-25% royalty revenue to the impacted local government areas of Gunnedah, Narrabri, Liverpool Plains and Tamworth, future proofing our region", Rodda concluded.

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