

14 April 2019

## Australian Democrats' Victorian Senate Team

The Australian Democrats today announced its Victorian Senate candidates, David Collyer and Marc Williams, for the 18 May federal election.

“Voters now have a sensible and useful place to lodge their protest at the poor quality of Australian politics while denying the extremists of the left and right a place in parliament,” Senate lead candidate David Collyer said.

After merging with CountryMinded - an uncompromised voice for rural and regional Australia, now Country Democrats - the concerns of rural and regional Australians are explicitly included in the Democrats' policy process.

“We are the party of the centre - the deep centre, the hard centre, the practical centre where durable inclusive policy ultimately lives.

The Democrats were reregistered as a federal political party by the Australian Electoral Commission on 8 April. The party has been in deep preparation for some time ahead of this announcement.

If elected, the Democrats will pick up the sterling, detailed work that built its reputation: reviewing legislation line-by-line and negotiating with government to refine new laws, asking the tough questions of government bodies in Senate committees, and giving a voice to those excluded by the two party system.

“We want a federal Independent Commission Against Corruption that anyone can refer concerns to over illicit behaviour. Australia lacks a federal statutory body with clear responsibility for public sector corruption to match the successful state ICAC's. It needs broad powers, including the authority to initiate investigations itself.

“We want decisive action on climate change, after years of denial by a government that elevated personal 'beliefs' above scientific evidence. Ending fossil fuel consumption and CO2 emissions are not sufficient to solve this problem. Prodigious efforts are also needed to combat desertification through revegetation, address salinity, ensure the survival of endangered species, balance ecological water flows and irrigation, cool urban heat islands, and on.

“And equally, we want to harness Australia's natural advantages to deliver cheap abundant reliable renewable electricity to all. The cost of electricity on the east coast is set by the price of gas, the marginal provider. The likely short-term solution is domestic gas reservation to defeat the global pricing imposed by the LNG cartel who built more chillers than the industry can supply.

“Despair at politics no longer. The Australian Democrats are truly, legitimately back!” Mr Collyer concluded.

Ends.

Profiles of David Collyer and Marc Williams can be found at:  
<https://www.australian-democrats.org.au/vic-campaign/david-collyer>  
<https://www.australian-democrats.org.au/vic-campaign/marc-williams>

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