

DECEMBER 2019

OUTLOOK

THE NATIONALS

2020 Centenary Celebrations

Native Timber Ban

Our Fight for More Water



Tallygaroopna Branch
100 Year Anniversary



What a year we have had.

With 2019 (and the 2010s) quickly coming to a close, our Party must take the opportunity to reflect on a number of important milestones.

The Tallygaroopna Branch's centenary celebrations was the perfect example of the Party's grass roots longevity. It was also an honour to be able to help celebrate the NSW Nationals' centenary in October, while 2020 will mark 100 years of the Federal Nationals. The passing of The Hon. Tim Fischer AC serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when one has passion for and commitment to a cause. It is humbling to be a part of this great movement, and I congratulate all our members for their ongoing commitment to regional Victoria.

The speed with which this year has passed is a good reminder of how quickly the next three will go. With our state election now a distant memory and a successful Federal Election already six months gone, it is a reminder of what we can achieve for our local communities and a reminder of our vital place in Australia's political landscape.

While Daniel Andrews and Labor treat our communities with such contempt, we have a vital role to play in representing regional Victoria. We are working hard to prepare for the 2022 State Election so that we can have the best opportunity for forming government and for driving better outcomes in our communities.

I thank all of our MPs and Party members for your continuing hard work and commitment. As Christmas approaches and the decade closes, I wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and look forward to working with you all during the year ahead.

Neil Pankhurst
State President

NATIONAL OUTLOOK

DECEMBER 2019

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The Nationals represent people who live and work in regional Victoria. Two great strengths of the Party are our membership and democratic processes. No other political party involves its membership so broadly.

Local branches have long provided avenues for any member to have a voice and make a real contribution. All members have opportunities to bring in new ideas, vote in pre-selections and get involved in election campaigns to support their local candidate.

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Our members are
locals, our political
representatives are
locals and our values
and policies reflect
the unique and
diverse characteristics
of our regional areas.



Please email vic@nationals.org.au with any upcoming AEDC, FEDC and branch meeting dates. Our new events page on the Nats website will regularly be updated with any upcoming meetings and events.

DEC
14
2019

State Council - Melbourne

MAR
13
2020

100 Year Anniversary Federal Parliament Re-Enactment - Parliament House, Melbourne

MAY
22-23
2020

State Conference - Inverloch



Did you know you can now purchase Nationals branded merchandise via our website? Visit vic.nationals.org.au/shop to buy now.

- Beanies
- Vests
- Stubby Holders
- Rugby Jumpers
- Waterproof Jackets
- Polos
- Caps
- Dress Shirts



To stay in the loop with any upcoming events or monthly notices, please make sure we have your email addresses, this will ensure you receive any digital communications and our new digital Outlook online.

Simply send an email to vic@nationals.org.au and we'll add your email to our records.

Have you considered?

Once you have provided for your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift, large or small, to the Party. If you have already made a Will you can still help The Nationals by completing and adding this addition to your existing Will.

Annual State Conference 2020



The 2020 Annual State Conference will be held at the RACV Club in Inverloch.

Accommodation is available within the RACV Club with the options of caravan sites, hotel style rooms and villas.

If you would like us to coordinate room share in order to save costs, please get in contact and we will happily coordinate a two-bedroom villa. Otherwise, please get in contact with the RACV club directly and mention the conference to allow for easier arrangements.

Invites to follow in the new year.

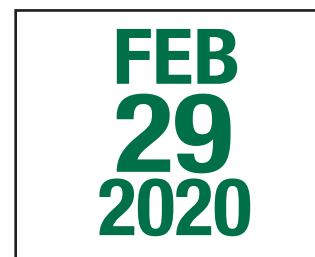
Women's 61st Conference 2020

The Women's Executive will be reinstating their Annual Conference in 2020.

The last Women's Conference was held in 1978 and will be reinstated in Bendigo on 29 February 2020 where we hope many women involved in the party will attend.

The day will include guest speakers, lunch and a discussion on motions for the forthcoming State Conference.

Invites to follow.



The Importance of Social Media



Facebook is an ever-changing communications platform and is broadly known as one of the easiest places to get news out quickly, share a family photo or communicate with one another.

The Nationals recognise the importance of social media and are working hard to identify how we can best use Facebook and other social media platforms to help get our messages out.

The amount of people who see our content is driven by the level of interaction on our posts.

Like, Share and Comment on our social media posts to help more people see our content.

To organise a member from Head Office to come to your local branch meeting to help develop your social media skills, please email brooke.mccurdy@nationals.org.au

Tallygaroopna Branch 100 Year Anniversary

Andrew Black - Senior Vice President

On Sunday 27th of October, the Tallygaroopna Branch of the National Party celebrated its centenary with a well-attended luncheon at the historic local Soldiers' Memorial Hall. The milestone was also marked by the launch of a booklet recording the history of the 'Tally' branch over the past century.

The Tallygaroopna branch of the Victorian Farmers' Union, as the Country/National Party was originally known, was formed in 1919. The foundation branch meeting was attended by 27 local farmers and elected Mr John 'Jack' McKenzie as the inaugural branch president. A Women's Section branch was established at Tallygaroopna in 1922 which continued until 1932. The Bunbartha Ladies' branch, which included many residents of Tallygaroopna, was formed in 1949 and continued until the two branches were amalgamated in 1975.

In what may well be a unique record, the Tallygaroopna branch secretary position has been held by the one family – the Billingham-Crozier family – for the entirety of the past

century. Remarkably, the inaugural branch secretary, Mr George Billingham, served in the role for 50 years without missing a single meeting! George Billingham passed on the position to his cousin Keith Crozier in 1969, who in turn handed over to his daughter, Glenda Dempster, after 26 years of service.

Over the course of the past century, the branch has supported many of the legendary men and women who have represented the local district in parliament, including Sir John McEwen, W.C. Hill, Sir Murray Bouchier, Premier John G.B. McDonald, George Moss, Peter Ross-Edwards, Bruce Lloyd, Jeanette Powell, Don Kilgour and Bill Baxter. A special tribute is also merited for local branch member Betty Thornton for her 70 years of membership and dedicated service to the Party.

Congratulations to Branch President Neville Moss, the 2019 branch centenary committee and all members for their many years of service to the Party and to their community.



Left: Jeanette Powell, Glenda Dempster and Senator Bridget McKenzie with a 100 year certificate.



Right: Peter Ross-Edwards thanks Mr George Billingham for his 50 years of service as Secretary of the Tallygaroopna branch.

Bottom: 100 year anniversary celebration for the Tallygaroopna Branch in October 2019.



Native Timber Ban Backlash

Regional Victorians are livid at Labors plan to close the sustainable native timber industry.

Under Daniel Andrews' plan the native timber industry in Victoria will be completely shut down by 2030 in a bid to chase green inner-city votes.

The announcement has been met with huge opposition from community members and our Victorian Nationals MPs have declared they will continue to fight the announcement, pledging to overturn the ban if elected in 2022.

Daniel Andrews' decision to end native timber harvesting is economically devastating for many regional Victorian communities and will inflict sweeping job losses and economic pain. With 21,000 regional jobs predicted to go, many small country communities fear they will be obliterated if it goes ahead.

Victorian Nationals MP's have taken up the

fight, supporting industry workers and their families. Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath raised a motion in Parliament in November stating *"that this house condemns the Andrews Labor Government for sacrificing the livelihood of thousands of Victorians and their families though the closure of the native timber industry"* She also went on to call for recognition that the government's decision is politically motivated and driven by Labor's reliance on the Greens.

During question time in the Assembly Premier Daniel Andrews refused to answer questions, while in the Council Labor's Agriculture Minister stayed silent, choosing not to participate in debate.

Labor's sudden announcement has been met with huge resistance, fuelled by mistruths and propaganda attempting to justify the decision and manage the fall out. (Communities are angry as the decision was announced with no industry consultation and cannot be justified.)





Above: Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath with co-owners of Hardwood Forest Products Australia in Parliament after the announcement.

This decision ignores the fact that 94% of Victoria's forest is either unsuitable or unavailable for timber harvest or locked in National Parks never to be touched.

Our state's timber is the most environmentally sustainable native timber harvesting industry in the world, with businesses such as the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods mill at Heyfield not only investing in new technology to keep updated but is also a key local employer in the region.

Current regulations allow only 0.04% of Victoria's native forests to be nominally harvested each year, equating to 4 in 10,000 trees, which are all replanted or regenerated.

Victoria's native timber industry is sustainable and



Above: Melina Bath at the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods mill in Heyfield.

currently operates under a comprehensive regulatory framework and The Nationals will continue to push back and fight the ban.

The Nationals refuse to stand idle as Daniel Andrews tears apart this sustainable and responsible industry while leaving job losses and heartbroken communities in his wake.

Regional Victorian's are continuing to rally against the ban, and we have launched a petition to fight the closure, which can be signed online at:

vic.nationals.org.au/native-timber-industry-petition



Above: Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester, Member for Eastern Victorian Region Melina Bath, Member for Gippsland East Tim Bull and Federal Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries Jonathon Duniam with Gippsland timber industry representatives.

The Honourable Timothy Fischer AC

1946 - 2019

The Nationals lost one of our all time greats with the untimely death of Tim Fischer at 73. Tim had been receiving treatment for a blood disorder for more than 12 months and, despite trialling new treatments, he lost his battle on 22 August.

Tim was raised on a wheat/sheep farm at Boree Creek near Lockhart in the southern Riverina. He attended the local school and then boarded at Xavier College in Melbourne. Soon after returning to the farm, he was conscripted for National Service, sent from Kapooka army camp to Scheyville for officer training and then to Vietnam where he was wounded. The fact that he was selected for officer training, which was usually restricted to university graduates, indicates that his leadership potential was recognised very early on.

After Vietnam, he returned to the farm at Boree Creek and became active in the Country Party. In 1971 he was elected as Member for Sturt, making him one of the youngest members ever elected to the NSW Parliament. However, his parliamentary career was nearly prematurely truncated when the Electoral Commission announced that Sturt would be abolished at the 1981 general election. In the meantime, the member for the adjacent seat of Murray, Mrs Mary Meillon, died. Tim made the risky decision to resign from Sturt and contest the by-election in Murray. He won handsomely and the subsequent by-election in Sturt resulted in Lt Col John Sullivan (former Federal Member for Riverina) holding it for the Nationals until it ceased to exist at the next poll.

and, to the surprise of some, Tim was elected Leader of the Nationals. He set a cracking pace travelling throughout Australia to reinvigorate The Nationals. The rest is history. The Coalition defeated Labor at the 1996 election and Tim took on the role of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade.

Tim's enthusiasm, energy, ideas and commitment to extremely long hours as well as a canny knack of keeping journalists interested, helped make that government one of the best in Australian history.

In 1999, he stood down from the leadership and at the 2001 poll did not seek re-election to Farrer, ostensibly to spend more time with

Tim's enthusiasm, energy, ideas and commitment to extremely long hours as well as a canny knack of keeping journalists interested, helped make that Government one of the best in Australian history.

In 1984, Tim decided to seek election to the House of Representatives. He contested the vast electorate of Farrer, stretching from Mt Kosciusko to the South Australian border. In a hard fought contest including the then long serving Mayor of Albury running as the Liberal candidate, Tim won and embarked on a stellar career in the Federal parliament.

At the 1993 election, the Nationals leader, Charles Blunt, lost his northern NSW seat



his wife Judy and his young sons. Harrison and Dominic. That turned out to be an illusion. Tim never slowed down. His interests were so diverse that staying at home for long was not an option.

He was appointed Australian Ambassador to the Holy See in Rome and, later, Chair of The Crop Trust based in Bonn in Germany, but with a global seed vault located on an icy island midway between Norway and the North Pole. Tim deposited some seeds from the Riverina on one of his visits to the vault.

Tim authored several very readable books including a couple about trains and rail gauges. He championed the cause to elevate Sir John Monash to the rank of Field Marshall and sponsored dozens of local groups and events. He campaigned hard for Nationals candidates all over Australia. His commitment and encouragement never wavered. Only days prior to what was to be his final hospital admission he rallied the troops at an Indi FEDC BBQ at Oxley.

More than 1200 citizens from near and far were present at his State Funeral in Albury. Thousands more watched the service on ABC television or listened in on radio. This was indeed a fitting recognition of Tim's outstanding service to his community and his nation.

We in The Nationals have lost a grand champion and a great friend.

- Bill Baxter AM



Young Nationals

The Young Nationals serve an important role within the wider National Party. They are the voice for the youth and young adults of regional Victoria.

Our Young Nats are represented by a variety of young regional Victorians. From farmers, uni students, teachers to engineers, their voices help shape the future of our party.

To keep up to date on current politics the Young Nats meet in Melbourne on a semi-regular basis. With the State Parliamentary team joining the first event of the year at the Imperial Hotel, they went on to host the most recent 'pizza and policy' evening at Parliament House where Young Nats were offered a tour of Parliament House followed by the inevitable vigorous debate over pizza.

These types of events are always a great opportunity for our members to talk with our Nationals MP's about what issues are important to us, and to share a drink with friends.

The Young Nats do their best to be represented at other events and expos throughout the year and this year supported the Party at the Melbourne 4x4 Show, Shot Expo and Elmore Field Days.

Stay tuned for the next event!



Above: Young Nats catching up at the Imperial Hotel; renowned as a political haunt.

The Young Nationals are always looking for members to grow their team if you know someone or are interested in becoming a member, you can sign up via our website.

vic.nationals.org.au/get-involved/become-a-member



Right: Melina Bath MLC, Tim Bull MP and Tim McCurdy MP with the Young Nats in Parliament House for a 'Pizza & Polities' night.

Call to Investigate Big Buffalo

With irrigators at breaking point the Victorian Nationals are investigating options for long-term water security.

Shadow Water Minister Steph Ryan is calling for the Commonwealth's National Water Grid Authority to examine expanding Lake Buffalo, in North East Victoria, and its possible connection to Lake Nillahcootie.

The Victorian Government already owns the land required for Lake Buffalo's expansion, with preliminary planning completed when the lake was first built in 1965. The expansion could be achieved through a tri-state agreement between Victoria, NSW and South Australia.

Substantial water savings could be made by expanding Lake Buffalo's storage capacity and reducing reliance on Lake Victoria in south west NSW, where 130 gegalitres of water evaporated last year alone. Those savings could provide greater security to entitlement holders in Victoria, southern NSW and South Australia.

Investigation by the Commonwealth Government's National Water Grid Authority would determine whether Lake Buffalo could be connected to Lake Nillahcootie to overcome the capacity constraints of the Barmah choke.

This would provide water security for irrigators and improve environmental outcomes by reducing peak flows through the Barmah choke.

Daniel Andrews and the Victorian Labor Party need to put aside their ideological opposition to dams. The Premier said "building dams doesn't make it rain".

We see things differently. Climate scientists say we face a future of greater extremes: more intense rainfall events and longer droughts. That means we need the infrastructure to sustain us through those floods and droughts.

Australians are calling for the kind of vision that built the Snowy Hydro project. We believe the expansion of Lake Buffalo could be a similar kind of nation-shaping project.

Lake Buffalo expansion proposal key points:

- Big Buffalo will be 40 times larger than its current site;
- Big Buffalo will generate hydroelectricity via a pipe to Nillahcootie/Eildon;
- Outflows will not affect the Ovens flow and will bypass the Barmah choke;
- South Australia will have security for Adelaide water;
- NSW/VIC irrigators will receive higher water security, but no new allocations granted;
- Big Buffalo will reduce the reliance on Lake Victoria which loses 130,000ML per year in evaporation;
- The environment will have increased water security;
- The Murray Darling Basin Plan remains intact while communities and the environment are winners.

To support the expansion of Lake Buffalo, sign the petition at:

www.buildbigbuffalo.com.au

Water

The Victorian Nationals are fighting for changes to help save farms and livelihoods in northern Victoria.

We believe urgent action is needed to address the imbalance in the Basin.

Prices in the southern Basin have hit \$1000 per megalitre (ML) for temporary water. These prices, which are higher than those sustained during the millennium drought, are the result of reduced water availability caused by intensifying dry conditions, Commonwealth environmental water purchases and a huge expansion in horticulture downstream of Swan Hill.

In September, Shadow Water Minister Steph Ryan travelled to The Nationals' Federal Council in Canberra to make the case for Commonwealth environmental water to be traded back onto the market. She pointed to the underutilisation of the Adelaide desalination plant, which was in part paid for the Commonwealth and suggested that the plant could be used to full capacity in order to return water to irrigators.

This has since been adopted by the Federal Nationals, who announced in November 100GL of water would be made available at \$100 ML to irrigators for fodder production in coming weeks.

The Victorian Nationals also argued at Federal Council for the design of new operating rules to force the environment to trade water back onto the market during drought and successfully passed a motion against the recovery of the 450GL of upwater.

After warning the Andrews Government for several years about the risks of delivery shortfalls downstream of the Barmah choke, a moratorium

has been placed on new development. Victoria's action needs to be matched, however, by the South Australian and NSW governments.

There is a great deal of concern among Basin communities about the impact of water traders and speculators within the market. We continue to call on both state and federal governments to implement a single trading platform across the southern Basin to provide greater transparency and real time information on water prices.

While the short term is important, we must also take long term action. That's why we are calling for the Andrews Government to refer the possible expansion of Lake Buffalo and its connection to Lake Nillahcootie to the new National Water Grid Authority established by Federal Nationals leader Michael McCormack.

The Federal Nationals have put more than \$3 billion on the table for new water infrastructure, however Daniel Andrews and Lisa Neville have refused to even look at projects like Big Buffalo to help secure Victoria's long-term water supplies, stating that "dams don't make it rain".

There is much to do to help our communities through these devastating times. We are focused on making sure that government policy does not make life even harder during drought.

To see what the State Parliamentary team are fighting for, see next page.

Water prices and availability

- Full use of the Adelaide desalination plant to make more water available to farmers (ACHIEVED).
- Operating rules to trigger the trade of environmental water back onto the market during drought.
- Early release of Melbourne's Eildon entitlement back into northern Victoria.
- Review of carryover to ensure the benefit the environment gets from spill events is deducted from its account.
- Immediate return of the 75GL of water owed to irrigators from Stage 1 of the Connections Project, which was supposed to be returned by July 2019.

Changes to the Basin Plan

- No further water recovery from irrigators or the consumptive pool.
- Construction of Lock Zero to prevent 700GL of water evaporating from the Lower Lakes Redrafting of the Basin Plan to take account of new science that casts doubt on South Australia's claim that the Lower Lakes are a predominantly freshwater ecosystem.
- Splitting of the MDBA into river operations, implementation of the Basin Plan and compliance to make the organisation more accountable.
- No compulsory acquisition or flooding of private land.

Fixed water charges

- Payment of fixed water charges as part of the Victorian Government's drought response.
- Full review of rural water charges to ensure storage and delivery costs are fair and equitable.

Transparency

- The immediate introduction of a single, transparent trading platform across the Southern connected Basin so farmers can see how much water is trading for at any given time.
- Complementary legislation across states to ensure proper regulation and governance of the water market ie traders should not be permitted to take commissions from both buyers and sellers.

Securing long-term reliability of water supplies

- Victorian Government to refer Big Buffalo to the Federal Government's new National Water Grid Authority for investigation.
- A united approach between Victoria, NSW and SA to place a moratorium on new development below the Barmah choke.

Melbourne to host The Nationals Centenary celebrations in 2020

The second oldest political party in Australian Federal politics, The Nationals, is turning 100 next year.

The ALP beat us by only a few years, arising in Queensland. The Liberals didn't consolidate until 1946, under Menzies.

Way back in 1920, Melbourne was the seat of the Federal Parliament, and - hard to believe - Canberra hadn't yet been established. The Victorian Parliament building was a product of the Victorian gold rush of the 1850s, and no expense was spared in building this architectural jewel. The Governor-General meanwhile was accommodated at 'Stonnington', an equally impressive mansion on Glenferrie Road, Malvern. It's still there, too, after many and various tenants and uses.

So then, how should we go about celebrating this major anniversary? How to acknowledge the parliamentary, civic and social impacts of founding a party based directly on the regions outside our capital cities - The Country Party. (Although many townsmen parliamentarians of those days also had significant land holdings out of town.)

The Federal Nationals last year decided to appoint a committee to tackle this challenge: to conceive and organise a program that includes all Party members, from the Deputy PM to the newest baby Young Nat on the block. It is being chaired by Kay Hull, a former distinguished MP as Member for Riverina (now DPM Michael McCormack's seat). The Committee also includes the Federal President, Larry Anthony, and the former Party Treasurer, John Sharp - another ex-MP - and the Federal Party's historian Paul Davey.* Paul is producing an 'Updated Short History of the Party', to be distributed to libraries and schools across the country.

There is also a Committee representative from each state, reflecting our unusual federated structure and they have decided early on a multi-pronged approach.

The new party's birth was announced in the Parliament by William McWilliam, MHR for Franklin in Tasmania. We intend to have an actor, appropriately attired, re-enact the speech in the historic chamber; to which will be on Friday 13 March next year and Party faithful will be welcomed. Bookings are essential, as there is a maximum of 150 people able to be accommodated in the Legislative Assembly chamber - please keep an eye on the Party's website for booking information.

After that ceremony, we will adjourn to the Park Hyatt Hotel for a formal Memorial Dinner with suitable entertainments. Those unable to attend the re-enactment can still come to the dinner. Bookings will open soon.

The Melbourne event is the second phase in a year of celebrations. Souvenir merchandise with a specially commissioned '100 Years' design logo is already on the market and can be purchased at nationals.org.au/centenary/merchandise.

We will also be commissioning the planting of a National Party Tree, which will be placed in the Canberra Arboretum on 22 January next year. The year also brings our biennial Federal Conference in Canberra, where a special dinner will be held. The Committee is proceeding on the commissioning of a statue of Black Jack McEwen, to be placed in the landscape by the National Capital Authority.

In undertaking these initiatives, we are grateful to the Federal Government for making funding available (as it did recently for the ALP). And the Head Office secretariats in Canberra and Melbourne are doing (as ever) an indispensable job.

So please save the March date in your diary, and buy a '100 Years!' badge and the other articles which proudly proclaim that The Nats are 100.

Jacky Abbott
Victorian Federal Centenary Committee Representative

(* And father of Perin Davey, our newest female Senator, who represents NSW.)

JAN
22
2020

National Party Tree planting -
Canberra

MAR
13
2020

First Parliament re-enactment -
Parliament House, Melbourne

NOV
27
2020

Federal Centenary Conference -
Canberra



THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

CENTENARY 1920 - 2020

100 Days, 100 Members



Lorraine Stein - Shepparton

"I've been a member all my life! My dad was a member of the Country Party and his father joined when the Country Party was formed. So I knew no other party!"

"I like helping with pre-polling and polling during elections, and scrutineering. You meet a lot of people and we have a lot of fun. We bake cakes for the pollies [campaigns] and a lot of friendships were formed."



Chris Anderson - Ripon

"I joined the National Party because it was the only political party interested in the health, wealth and the morals of not only regional Australia, but also the small communities, of which rely so much on themselves, not only in good times but also in times of hardship, where in isolation you need a hand to support and walk with you."



Peter and Lorraine Ryan - Goulburn Valley

"We joined the National party in 1990 (Lorraine was secretary of the Dookie Branch for 20 years) because we know how important it is for rural and regional Australia to have a strong and focussed representation in both the State and Federal Parliaments."



Sarah Ross-Edwards - Shepparton

"A highlight of being a Nat is to be able to tap into the Members [of Parliament] and talk to them - to have that contact, be able to pick up the phone and get their help".

"We're a great family. You become really close as a network of friends and you can call on these people. We bound together in elections in all [weather] conditions and we do it because we believe in [what the Nats stand for] and we want it."

Tell us why you love being a Nat

As part of the Federal Nationals Centenary Celebrations; Senator Bridget McKenzie is doing a Facebook campaign to celebrate the Federal Nationals 100 year Anniversary by showcasing 100 of our dedicated Victorian Nationals members.

If you would like to be a part of this campaign, please email senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au with 'why you love being part of The National Party.'



Page Research Centre

The Page Research Centre seeks to inform and influence policy that delivers positive outcomes for rural and regional Australia.

The Page Research Centre is the policy research centre and think tank affiliated with The Nationals, launched on 11th February 2003 by The Nationals then leader and Deputy Prime Minister the Hon John Anderson MP.

The Page Research Centre occupies a unique place in Australian policy research in that we, like The Nationals, are concerned with driving debate and policy which affects our vital rural and regional areas. We are grateful for the privileged access we enjoy to The Nationals, especially in that the work we generate can have a direct impact on party and government policy. It means we are mindful of the responsibility we have to commission and publish the most thoroughly well researched papers and policy reviews and hold lectures and conferences which speak to the vital issues affecting Australia.

Page is currently working with various interested stakeholders, including in the Victorian state party, on a research paper looking into the various organisations that make up the radical animal rights activist groups that do so much damage to our farming communities. Once complete it will be a database listing the organisations, along with a summary of their objectives, stated and unstated, and a review of their funding and links to one another. In addition, various policy proposals will be recommended that will seek to diminish the power of these organisations to inflict further damage.

The Page Research Centre conducts research, creates policy proposals, hosts events, provides a forum for debate and encourages engagement and interaction from all stakeholders and we always welcome feedback and collaboration.

Kristian Jenkins

Executive Director

The Page Research Centre



Animal Activists

It is clear the actions of law-breaking activists have had a significant impact on our farmers, their families, businesses, and the wider community; and The Nationals are fighting to keep them safe.

Member for Eastern Victoria Region Melina Bath started an enquiry into farm trespass laws, with numerous hearings across the state including Gippy Goat owner John Gommans.

New laws have passed in Federal Parliament that will strengthen farmers protection against escalating animal rights activism and harassment, introducing tougher penalties for convictions. The offences carry penalties from 12 months to 5 years imprisonment if found guilty.

As mentioned by Senator Bridget McKenzie, the Bill was not directed at people who simply wish to engage in public discussion or



Engaging Branch Meetings

Local Branches are a great means to work with the community to make a difference and build The Nats' reputation.

It's also important to have a good time with your fellow members! Don't forget to have social events with your local MP, or to plan your meetings around a meal (or a trip to the pub). The Nats are a community of like-minded people, so it's important to be inclusive, to get to know one another, and to enjoy your time together.

One great idea that several Branches and District Councils are using for their Annual General Meetings is to set the agenda around a particular topic with a guest speaker and debate:

- 10 minutes to present on an issue;
- 10-15 minutes questions with brief closing remarks;

- Put a policy motion forward that can be backed by the Branch (if members endorse it);

- Wrap-up the meeting and have a drink or meal, leaving any differences on the debating floor!

- Guest speakers can include a local expert or representative of a community group or service – think broadly, look at the local issues of concern, get in touch with people who understand it and can put forward a solution. If the proposed solution makes sense then pass it as a policy motion to submit to your MP or Electorate Council for an upcoming Conference – these are key tools in progressing and developing policy.

This is how the Branch can back the community, help members make a difference, have a good time, and ensure the Nats remain the voice of the regions!

debate, rather those who chose to go beyond that and commit unlawful trespass or other offences in the homes and on the land of our farmers.

In more recent weeks, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack has raised the prospect of further punishment for vegan activist groups who break the law since the Aussie Farms group were stripped of their charity status.

By revoking the charity status of Aussie Farms Inc, the organization is no longer able to access Commonwealth charity tax concessions and is the most serious action the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission can take.

The Nationals will continue to fight for the safety and security of our farmers in Australia.

YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES



PETER WALSH

Member for Murray Plains
State Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Regional Victoria and
Decentralisation
Shadow Minister for Agriculture
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs



STEPH RYAN

Member for Euroa
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Shadow Minister for Water
Shadow Minister for Public Transport (Regional)
Shadow Minister for Gaming and Liquor Regulation



EMMA KEALY

Member for Lowan
Shadow Minister for Mental Health
Shadow Minister for Prevention of Family
Violence
Shadow Minister for Women



TIM BULL

Member for Gippsland East
Shadow Minister for Disability
Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs
Shadow Minister for Racing



DANNY O'BRIEN

Member for Gippsland South
Shadow Assistant Minister for Regional
Health
Shadow Assistant Minister for Ambulance
Services



MELINA BATH

Member for Eastern Victoria Region
Shadow Assistant Minister for Public Land Use



TIM McCURDY

Member for Ovens Valley

YOUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES



BRIDGET MCKENZIE

Senator for Victoria
Deputy Federal Leader
Leader in the Senate
Minister for Agriculture



DAMIAN DRUM

Member for Nicholls
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