



Senator The Hon Bridget McKENZIE

- ☎ 02 6024 2560
- 📍 172 High Street Wodonga VIC 3690
- ✉ senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au
- 🌐 www.bridgetmckenzie.com.au
- 📘 /senatormckenzie
- 🐦 @senbmckenzie

THE NATIONALS *for Regional Australia*

NEWSLETTER January 2021

Delivering what matters to rural Australians . . .

Rural and regional Victorians led by example as the nation grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic and that is why I have complete faith it will again be rural and regional Victorians who step up as Australia rebuilds our economy. That great spirit and resolve will help steer us through whatever challenge 2021 throws at us.

The Nationals have a strong track record of backing wealth creation, jobs and sustainable industries and we proudly back our hard-working communities on the road to recovery.

There is an abundance of resources and opportunities for regional communities to be the value-add pacesetters by focusing on the entire supply chain and not just the original raw product.

The Nationals recently released our visions for Australia's post-COVID economic recovery, titled **Manufacturing 2035** (you can find the document here: vicn.at/manufacturing-2035). It is the culmination of extensive roundtable and video teleconferences with manufacturers from across regional Australia.

Last week I was able to meet with foresters in Coffs Harbour with The Nationals member for Cowper, Pat Conaghan.

And this week our forestry industry received news of a great legal victory.

The full bench of the Federal Court rejected the Bob Brown Foundation's legal challenge to the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement.

This is an endorsement of Australia's sustainable native timber industry and the thousands who work in and rely on this great industry.

There has been a lot of commentary around Australia's carbon emissions. The Nationals don't intend signing up to a plan that negatively impacts agriculture, mining or manufacturing jobs, which are all predominantly out in our electorates. I'll be making sure that any plan, when it is developed, ensures families who work in the agriculture, manufacturing and mining industries, and their communities are not going to be paying the ultimate price just to appease inner-city voters.

We lost a giant of the party with the passing of former leader Doug Anthony in December. He wasn't just the Deputy Prime Minister or the member for Richmond. He very much was the Leader of the Country Party and then the National Party and part of an iconic era for our party post John McEwen. The fab four — Doug Anthony, Peter Nixon, Ian Sinclair and Ralph Hunt — were a force to be reckoned with on behalf of regional Australia.

Senator Bridget McKenzie



What is Manufacturing 2035? visit vicn.at/manufacturing-2035

PARLIAMENT RETURNS FOR 2021 YEAR

It has been a very busy first sitting week with some great wins for rural and regional Australia, tinged with sadness.

I was honoured to have had the opportunity to reflect on former party leader Doug Anthony. It was the likes of Doug Anthony and his colleagues, Peter Nixon and Ian Sinclair, who demonstrated what would be achieved through the partnership of two very proud and independent political movements. It was noted during the condolence motion that while Doug Anthony was a committed Coalitionist in front of the opposition, he was fiercely committed to The National's cause in joint party room and Cabinets.

I was proud to speak on The Nationals' Manufacturing 2035 plan. Released during January, it will protect strategic industries; will increase trade promotion efforts and grow exports; will provide accessible access to finance and capital for those wanting to enter and grow manufacturing efforts, supported by Australian policy; will get people into trades and harmonise qualifications and employment conditions; and will invest in reliable, affordable energy and the strategic infrastructure that supports Australian manufacturing.

The Senate passed The Nationals motion backing Aussie jobs and manufacturing.

Unsurprisingly the Greens showed regional Australians how little they think of us by voting against our motion. Even Labor voted to support the substance clauses of the motion.

It was yet another slap in the face for Aussie workers and Australian manufacturers across rural and regional Australia.

LOWER ENERGY PRICES WILL DRIVE MANUFACTURING AND JOBS

The Nationals unashamedly advocate for Australia's abundant natural resources and critical minerals sectors, and the regional communities and jobs that it supports. We want to create jobs and opportunities for rural and regional Australians.

Affordable, reliable power is key to that. We have made that commitment clear in our Manufacturing 2035 plan.

Fifteen years ago, Australia had some of the most affordable energy in the world, today we have some of the highest electricity prices for business.

In a stunning show of contempt for Australian workers and industry, The Greens did not waste any time confirming they were against Australian manufacturing.

During the first sitting week of 2021 the Greens opposed a Nationals motion that backs Aussie jobs and manufacturing the Greens suggested growing our economy would be a catastrophe.

The Nationals motion supporting manufacturing jobs in regional Australia was passed. To reject a plan that would create jobs, grow regional exports, provide tax incentives and low cost finance the establish regional manufacturing operations, to reject investment in



reliable, affordable energy and strategic infrastructure that supports manufacturing is outrageous.

It was a slap in the face for Aussie workers and Australian manufacturers across rural and regional Australia.

The Greens were isolated in their opinion with even Labor voting to support the substance clauses of the motion.

McEWEN BOOK

My book *John McEwen: Right man, right place, right time*, published by Connor Court Publishing, was launched on December 10 at Parliament House, Canberra, by *The Australian* editor-at-large Paul Kelly. Ask for it at your local bookshop, alternatively log on to:

vicn.at/right-man-right-place-right-time.

COMMUNITY VISION

The Stronger Communities Programme provides grants of between \$2500 and \$20,000 to community organisations and local governments for small capital projects that deliver social benefits for your local communities.

Round 6 applications close on 22 March 2021.

To learn more visit: vicn.at/strong-communities

BUILDING STRENGTH

Local Economic Recovery and Complementary Projects funding is helping bushfire-affected communities restore local economies and build back better. It is supported by additional funding contributions from states. In Victoria, the Local Economic Recovery has two streams which has seen support across Gippsland, Alpine and Upper Murray regions.

WORKING FOR YOU

If you have any questions about COVID-19 or other support services and need some help, please contact my office on 02 6024 2560 or by email at this address: senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au

During tough times The Nationals have your back.