

MEDIA RELEASE

THE POWER OF AN INDEPENDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Recently Cathy McGowan introduced a bill to parliament for an Office for Regional Australia. Cathy asked "Why do we need an office for regional Australia? We need an office for regional Australia because the regions are different to the cities."

When questioned about the Regional Development Committee in 2013, the National Party minister for Regional Development said it was "an ad hoc committee that meets occasionally."

"How can the National Party be called the party of the country people when they have not been serious about the most basic needs of, or engagement with the regions? There has been no accountability, no one championing Regional Australia for far too long. Regional rural Australia matters and we are demanding more attention from our elected representatives." said Jason Modica, candidate for the seat of Mallee.

"Over the last fifteen to twenty years regional and rural Australia has been overlooked. This cannot continue. With issues around competitive grant funding, federal assistance grants and reduced infrastructure spending, many rural Australian areas outside of a swinging seat are underserved and unmaintained. Where is the equity?" said Jason Modica.

"The overwhelming message I keep hearing is 'Why have the Nation Party ceased to represent its base?' I have watched them move away from country people enticed by lobbyists, large corporate donors and complacency."

"If elected, the Office for Regional Australia is a bill that I would fight for on behalf of Mallee and all regional electorates to ensure legislation was put through regional and rural impact testing."

- END: 17 March 2019 -