

MEDIA RELEASE

JASON MODICA TO RUN AS INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THE SEAT OF MALLEE

Mildura Rural City Councillor Jason Modica has today announced that he will contest the seat of Mallee as an Independent candidate in the Federal Election.

Currently Deputy Mayor, Jason has divided his time between his work as a tradesperson and his Council role since running a successful 'Jake the Tradie' campaign for election to local government in 2016.

Jason says it is time that the Mallee is acknowledged as leading the way on issues such as climate change, and that regional areas need to be better appreciated for their resilience and innovation. As such, his platform will focus on people, power and water.

"While other areas of the country are still debating and denying, we in the Mallee have just gotten on with the job of adapting to the realities of life in a changing climate.

"We live with the impacts of climate variability and water scarcity every day – and in many ways we have already adapted. We know how to deal with extreme heat and we have been working on efficient water use and alternative energy sources for decades. We have been early adopters because the impacts of not doing so are so readily apparent to us.

"I think it is time that the 'coin is flipped' and we in regional electorates like the Mallee are seen as the leaders we are in finding intelligent ways to cope. There is a lot that can be learnt from us – and I don't think this is acknowledged enough at a federal level."

If successful at this year's federal election, Jason's focus will be on raising the voice of Mallee people in Canberra and in fighting for action on the issues that impact the everyday lives of people in the region.

"The most important thing I have learned since being elected to Council in 2016 is that people know what they want, how they expect their leaders to behave and represent them, and if they do not like something they will tell you loud and clear.

"The reactions within the electorate to recent news about the current Member for Mallee confirms that the public have zero tolerance for poor behaviour from their politicians. We are tired of our elected representatives misusing their time and resources, and as 'role models' many are certainly falling short.

"This is the perfect time to reinvigorate leadership and representation in Australia's 'safest' electorate, and we have seen that it is possible for the Mallee to change its mind, with the recent election of my former Council colleague Ali Cupper to the seat of Mildura. For many this has brought fresh hope for genuine, independent representation for the region.

"On the topic of independence, I have been asked why, with my interests, I am not seeking to stand for election as part of an established political party. My answer to this is that we have seen self-interest and party politics get

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in the way of our democracy too often and it has certainly not served the people of Mallee well. I am offering independent leadership and representation free of party politics, and if I am elected by the people of Mallee, they can be sure that the issues of the Mallee will go to Canberra, as opposed to the directives of Canberra being delivered to the Mallee. What I hear from our communities is what I will communicate and fight for - because that is what we deserve in the Mallee.”

Jason Modica stands for election to the federal seat of Mallee: with a strong work ethic, a social and environmental conscience, as a husband and father of two, and as a fellow community member.

Jason Modica: people_power_water_health

- END: 2 February 2019 -



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