

Secretary
NSW Labor Party

Dear Mr Clements

I acknowledge your letter of 20/4/15 notifying me of a recommendation to expel me from the ALP. I am due to have surgery on May 26 in Canberra and have already notified your office that I am unavailable to attend an appeal hearing on 25 May in Sydney. With regard to the charges outlined in your letter I am in agreement with all except for not supporting the Platform and Rules of the Party. I would contend that your office and the branches in the Wollongong electorate failed to uphold the platform nor follow the rules, of the ALP.

I have been a loyal member of the ALP since 1983 and during that time I have been a pre-selected candidate for the seat of Molonglo in the ACT and a member of the party in Katoomba and Canberra for all that time. I have worked hard on numerous elections both state and Federal and been a committed member and campaigner over many years. I was the elected Secretary of UnionsACT from 2006 until 2014 and am a well known advocate and lobbyist within the party on a range of issues. I am also Chair of the National Museum of Labour. A person like myself does not decide to support an independent candidate against a sitting member unless something is seriously wrong, and without a lot of considered thought.

After personally witnessing the Wollongong pre-selection process I was pretty horrified by the appalling process, poor records and straight out rotting that took place. I helped Ann Martin during the pre-selection and the membership records and the voting process were like nothing I have ever witnessed before. I observed people being refused a vote who were veteran members, people being ejected from the polling station for wanting to cast a contested vote and people who did not exist as members actually getting a vote. I was disgusted by this and the behaviour of Noreen Hay's supporters who were both aggressive and intimidating to other candidates.

I was extremely disillusioned by the experience, by the lack of integrity shown by the sitting member and the subsequent actions of the Secretary of the ALP, Jamie Clements. I reject the finding by the Secretary that this pre selection was in order and should proceed.

The fact that after only a 6 week campaign, Arthur Rorris managed to garner a 21% vote for Arthur Rorris should indicate the lack of support for the sitting member and the ALP in Wollongong. This contrasted sharply with the vote for both Ryan Park and Anna Watson who won their seats very strongly. The fact that Arthur Rorris managed to attract over 160 volunteers, many of them ALP members must indicate a significant problem for the ALP in that seat.

The fact that you are prepared to expel a group of 5 hard working , loyal and skilled members of the ALP in favour of a very unpopular and lacklustre local member highlights the decay of the NSW ALP.

I have not lived in Wollongong for very long but it is apparent from my involvement in this community that many other fine labor people have been suspended or expelled over many years by your office. Most of these people are lost forever to the ALP because of the shoddy treatment- yet they are keen to be involved with a clean and credible progressive candidate when asked. If we held a meeting of all these people it would be very embarrassing to the ALP.

I would also point out that in the past year the ALP had victories against LNP governments in SA, Victoria and Queensland.. In NSW the ALP was unable to wrest a victory using similar strategies to those other states around the same issues. You need to ask yourselves why you failed and yet the other states won resounding victories with strong support from the unions and their members and with a hostile Federal government in power.

The history of corruption, reluctance to reform and sheer nepotism of the NSW Branch must take a lot of responsibility for this loss and tells the real story about what is crook in the ALP in Wollongong and elsewhere.

I like many others are very sad about what the ALP doesn't stand for any longer such as compassion for refugees, worker's rights, genuine anti-privatisation and proper job creation. For those that get expelled there are hundreds who are walking away from the ALP because the values contradiction is too great.

You have lost a loyal and committed ALP member forever. You obviously would prefer to keep others whose behaviour has brought them before ICAC and the gaze of the media. The lack of ethics and adherence to fair policies are highly questionable and clearly you have made your choice about who should be a member of the Australian Labor Party. You can be assured that I will continue to play an active role in local politics but it won't be in the name of the ALP any longer, but in the name of what the ALP should stand for in future.

Yours Sincerely

Kim Sattler
22 May 2015