

ALP FACTIONS DERAIL KEVIN RUDDS REFORMS

Abalinx – A Voice from the Pavement 13 July 2013



Walking along the pavement and listening to the locals in our area, they all stopped and said. "We told You so" . Did we not say that now with Kevin Rudd at the labor helm, Labor will start to fight amongst them? Did we not say that Kevin Rudd has not changed? Did we not say that power has gone to his head? The voice from the pavement looked at the speakers and nodded in agreement. Yes they did say that some months ago, but we did not believe them.

What could the voice from the pavement say? Nothing and strolled by looking down at the cracks in the pavement, stopping only to help the snail trying to speed across to the other side and/or to help a worm that had slithered in between the cracks in the pavement. Maybe Kevin Rudd was trying to do the same by worming himself back into the leadership role. Once a worm always a worm muttered the voice from the pavement.

Moving along plenty road pavement and approaching the stables shopping centre, the voice from the pavement noticed the empty shopping trolleys. It struck the voice as how empty they looked when they should be filled with groceries and vegetables for families. The high cost of living under Labor has hit hard the low and middle income families and heaven knows how the destitute, handicapped and those on welfare are surviving under Labor policies. It's about time for a change said the voice as it sauntered along the shopping strip.

The voice could see families braving the cold on this Saturday, scurrying from one shop to another seeking bargains and grocery opportunities that could help supplement their food bills and keep the debt collector wolves at bay and away from the safety of home. Not only has the carbon Tax made a negative impact on families, the services that were once the best in the world are floundering, health issues are at stake, education is a shambles, petrol costs are ridiculous, the manufacturing, construction and car industries have almost but cease to exist and unemployment is rising.

The voice remembers of a time past when individuals would mutter under their breath "come the revolution" well, the voice can only hope that that revolution comes quickly and painlessly in the form of an election date. A time when all Australians come together as one voice to replace the current government with one that listens to the people. A government that has real solutions and action plans. A government that can provide a real infrastructure, good border protections and a health and education system that all Australians can be proud of. Well its not Labor that is going to do this thought the voice from the pavement. Nly a coalition government can achieve this.

In the meantime, Kevin Rudd and his mob will be down at the sale yards herding the recalcitrant sheep into their pens for slaughter. If that is the case let the slaughter amongst the Labor factions begin and let the coalition bring in good governance and a safe and secure Australia by reducing the costs of living in the most economical manner. Abalinx - A Voice from the pavement.



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ALP ENFORCERS BACK DOWN ON PRESELECTIONS

EAN HIGGINS The Australian July 13, 2013

THE ALP's top decision-making body has backed down on its threat to intervene in preselections in five seats in three states after factional divisions and a grassroots revolt among local Labor branch presidents. At a lunchtime phone hookup today, the powerful national executive committee of top factional leaders agreed to recommend to the full national executive that it hold normal rank-and-file preselections in Rankin in Queensland, Charlton and Kingsford Smith in NSW, and Hotham and Lalor in Victoria.

The move, foreshadowed by *The Weekend Australian*, follows a late fightback by some top trade union leaders concerned that an intervention by the "faceless men" on the national executive to dictate candidates in the seats would be a bad look at a time when Kevin Rudd is taking steps to give ALP members a greater say in the party. The Prime Minister this week repeated his preference, "where possible", for normal local preselections.

Also influential, a member of the national executive told *The Weekend Australian*, was a public intervention by a local ALP branch president in the seat of Charlton, Lisa Higgins, who warned that members in her branch would leave the party if they did not get a preselection ballot. After ALP national secretary George Wright held consultations with state branches, a source said, it had been determined that normal preselections could be held expeditiously to give successful candidates sufficient time to campaign before the election.



In Charlton, the seat on the NSW central coast being vacated by Greg Combet, local ALP members faced the prospect of not having a preselection vote for more than a decade if head office intervened, since Mr Combet had been parachuted into the seat in 2007. Rumours suggested that some key factional players wanted to drop ALP assistant national secretary Nick Martin into Charlton. But Ms Higgins said such a move would infuriate local ALP members and lead to some of them leaving the party.

In both NSW seats, strong local candidates have declared their interest. In Charlton, union leader and local councillor Daniel Wallace and former Combet staffer Pat Conroy have put their hands up, while the MP for the state seat of Wallsend, Sonia Hornery, has expressed an interest. In Julia Gillard's prized Melbourne

seat of Lalor, a six-horse race has turned into four, with the withdrawal of young diplomat Lisa Clutterham and Health Services Union official Kimberley Kitching.

They are now backing former local primary school principal Joanne Ryan, who has been publicly endorsed by Ms Gillard. Other preselection candidates include Sandra Willis, daughter of former Keating-era treasurer Ralph Willis, and local residents Brian Dunn and Theresa Sgambaro.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/alp-enforcers-back-down-on-preselections/story-fn59niix-1226678879974>

