



**SENATOR THE HON IAN CAMPBELL**  
Minister for the Environment and Heritage

Tabled by the  
Minister for the  
Environment &  
Heritage, Budget  
Estimates, 25/5/06

Dear McMillan resident

On 9 October, your vote may well decide the future of South Gippsland's magnificent landscapes.

Your local Liberal, Russell Broadbent, is fighting hard to ensure that your community's views are heard. He supports the Howard Government's view that the Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) should not be raised.

In stark contrast, Labor's Christian Zahra is sworn to support Mark Latham's policy of more than doubling the MRET – and that means many more wind farms in South Gippsland.

The outrageous seizure of local planning controls by the Bracks Labor Government has made your region a prime target for developers who won't consider the views of the local community. Let's not forget that the Bracks Government has already ruled out some sites west of Port Phillip Bay, so the pressure will be on to pick up the pace on your doorstep.

If Christian Zahra really cared about his community – about you – he would have protested the issue with his Victorian Labor mates. If he was serious about protecting the visual amenity of the region that has elected him, he would have moved an amendment to the renewable energy legislation when it came before parliament in late 2002. If he really wanted to stop inappropriate wind development, he would be fighting Mark Latham on this issue instead of jockeying for a position on his front bench.

Instead, all we have seen from Christian Zahra is a nod and a wink and a stunt that was designed to fail – and did – and a half-clever attempt to shift the blame for botched planning on to others.

As the Minister for the Environment, I guarantee that I will exercise my responsibilities to ensure that any development submission meets every requirement of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Should the Australian people return the Howard Government to office, I will also ensure that funding for any future renewable energy programs are contingent upon community involvement and support.

The Howard Government supports appropriate wind developments as long as they are acceptable to local communities and pass all the environmental tests. Sadly, in the case of some of your local developments, the Victorian Labor Government has rejected community concerns in order to meet its short-term political ends.

The voters of McMillan may well decide who governs Australia for a long time to come. Should Christian Zahra be re-elected as part of a Latham Labor Government, you will send a signal that you support a higher MRET, that you tolerate interference from the Bracks Government in local planning decisions, and that you are happy to play host to increasing numbers of wind turbines in your region.

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