



Allawah residents appear mightily pleased they have election commitments from Labor and Liberal for a \$9 million bridge-widening project (St George Leader 12 Dec). Now read that again! Commitments, they didn't say when they would build it, what form, or more importantly, will you, the residents get a say.

Since announcing to stand at the March 2011 election as an independent less than 2 weeks ago, the biggest issue that voters in the "Heathcote" electorate have contacted me on is the traffic bottle-neck at Heathcote and the F6 extension.

John VanderJagt of Waterfall was first on the phone "I have been working on this for 4 years, and have been stabbed in the back by "Labor" at the 11th hour - the clearway poles were cemented in place, ready to start. How depressing!" How's that for politicians' commitments?

What a way to run government and how wasteful in time and money ("our money") is it! And we still don't have a viable solution.

Our thinking and process of government needs to change and just not to a different colour that promises the same as the other "side", case in point Allawah bridge-widening. After John contacted me, I sent emails to 6 contacts in the area asking for suggestions how to address the "Heathcote" traffic. Within 2 hours, I had many plausible possible suggestions. More interesting, "Heathcote" should not feel alone as suggestions came about other towns on the same route to Sydney, and co-related issues. And we forget, what are the 5pm to 8pm traffic delays on a Sunday night costing the community in tourists that don't return south again?

The problem is just not confined to Heathcote. So in fixing "Heathcote", will we be transferring the problem elsewhere? I am particularly interested to hear from the businesses of Heathcote also.

Again John VanderJagt encapsulated this best "The solution probably lies in a combination of initiatives. As the roads get busier and busier, it's time we realised that we can't simply park our cars on that publicly funded piece of much needed infrastructure. The time will come too when there will be parking bans in Engadine on the highway".

I suggest we ask the community, let's get together, and look for a solution that benefits the commuters, the business owners and the local community. No, not another meeting you might say! A process with a determination to find an outcome respecting everyone's views, within a specified timeline! How can the government refuse to spend "our" money on projects we require – how empowering for a community.

A common question I am asked is: "Can an independent be successful in achieving projects and funding for my area?" John Hatton legendary crime fighter and former South Coast MP best answers the question this way "In my years in parliament, Ted Mack and I were often both in the top 10 electorates of money spent! Why, because we frequently and consistently represented the community's needs in an unbiased way"!

If the government refuses to listen, the next government will. This is what John Hatton, calls "a seminal change in NSW politics and it will happen at this election".

I'm listening and I want to see change for the benefit of ALL the community. If you're up to the challenge, meet me in the West Car Park opposite Heathcote Railway Station on Sunday 30 January 2011 at 3pm and let's find a mediated solution the whole community will embrace. Bring your thoughts and a mind set to solve this forever in a constructive environment. All welcome.

Greg Petty - Helensburgh  
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***Greg Petty for a BIG difference!***

**On March 26, please vote 1 Greg Petty – Independent – Supported by John Hatton**