

JOHN HATTON'S INDEPENDENT TEAM
Standing Candidates for the NSW Upper and Lower Houses.



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hatton says: People of NSW want Parliament back, now!

John Hatton says that Parliament can be recalled (despite the Premier) and it's time for the citizens to hear all about the Electricity sale debacle.

Corruption-fighter and independent candidate for the Upper House, John Hatton has written to all current Members of Parliament urging them to take a stand and to petition the NSW Governor to reconvene the Parliaments.

John Hatton says: Parliamentarians can by-pass the Premier to do it. "If the Premier won't recall Parliament, then it must be done via the will of the people. This would then ensure complete protection for all witnesses, and those members of the public who wish to appear before the enquiry".

"We need a full debate and NSW Citizens are now calling upon their elected MP's and MLC's to take a stand and petition the NSW Governor Marie Bashir to recall this Parliament".

"This is so very important because **5,300 Million Dollars** [\$5.3b] of Public Assets are about to be sold. It's a lot when you say it that way, isn't it? Says Hatton. "This is not Kristina Keneally's money, it belongs to every NSW Citizen", Hatton says. "Do we want another sale of a public asset that comes back to bite our hip pocket? Telstra, Sydney Airport and demutualising NRMA Insurance are good examples.

"What is next - Sydney Water is sold to Macquarie Bank and then they gouge us too??" says Hatton. He said that many Citizens are very much against Sale of Essential Services and Utility Assets. Many people are telling my Team that they are fearful of asset sale price rises – they see themselves servicing the capital and providing massive monopoly like profits for huge corporations, often overseas owned. "Put simply, we're selling the Profit and this will mean huge Electricity price hikes for every house and business in NSW".

Hatton said recalling Parliament would allow MPs to display to their constituents where they stand (irrespective of party) on the 5,300 million [\$5.3b] sale, the sale process and it's effect.

"And, by deciding to support a petition to the Governor to reconvene parliament with adequate time to consider the issues before the election, this gives every parliamentary member an opportunity to show their commitment to open accountable government, proper process and above all to the principle of the supremacy of Parliament," he says.

Can it be done? John Hatton says 'Yes'. By convention the NSW Governor acts on the advice of The Executive Council. That is, on the advice of senior cabinet ministers through the Premier. The Premier, the Cabinet and the Executive Council are creatures of the Parliament – they are servants of the Parliament – they are not the parliament. The convention whereby a Government can decide when parliament will sit and the major items of business is just that: a convention. “Despite convention, in my view a Governor must act on the will of parliament as expressed by a majority of representative elected MPs. In any event the Governor **and** the people of NSW must be given this opportunity” says Hatton.

“We live in challenging times. In my view it is time for each MP to represent their constituents, stand up and be accountable and open. And especially just before an election, the public have a right to know the circumstances, facts and effects of the proposed sale of a 5,300 million dollar sale of an essential utility.

“It is a matter for parliament - not for the courts”. Hatton says. “Parliament is supreme to the Court says Hatton. “It is a matter for MPs individually and collectively to act”. He believes Government MP’s may even cross the floor in a final curtain show for the ALP.

John’ long involvement with the issue of Privatisation goes back as far as 1994 when he introduced a Bill requiring any moves to privatise Electricity, Education and Public Hospitals and Water to be put to the voters at a referendum. The Fahey Liberal Government voted against it but Hatton got the bill through with the support of the then Labor Opposition led by Bob Carr, by just one vote [48/47].

“The Liberal Government then killed my bill and it never went to the Upper House, they used every trick in the book” says Hatton. “When this Parliament is recalled they can also agree an election referendum for the Privatisation of Electricity and other Public Assets “ he says.

My website www.johnhatton.com.au will also contain a petition for members of the Public to subscribe to.

I invite candidates, state wide media, unions, business, industry, organisations and individuals to support the petition and ask each MP to publicly respond.

Hatton wants:

- A full debate on the process by which over \$ 5300 million dollars of public assets is being sold. This is sufficient justification in itself for parliament to resit. The Government would have the opportunity to fully explain and publicly account for the efficiency, probity and financial implications of the sale.
- The present and future cost to households, business and industry of electricity.
- The government’s plans for expenditure of proceeds of the sale.
- A full public inquiry by an all-party parliamentary committee with adequate terms of reference, necessary powers.
- A referendum at the Election on the sale of Public Assets and Utilities.

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