



THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

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Movement gathers momentum



A small group of concerned citizens began an online movement in January which has grown to become a national movement: March in March.

March in March has now drawn media attention, with people committed to joining marches in all capital cities and many regional centres as a vote of no confidence in the Government's policies.

The aim is to give a voice to the thousands of Australians who are disillusioned with the direction the Abbott Government is taking. It is not associated with any political party or organisation and is devoted to total transparency.

There are 23 marches planned for the weekend of March 15/16th (Canberra on March 17th). The Lismore event will take place on Saturday 15th March at noon in Spinks Park, with marchers asked to wear yellow and red and bring a written message to Canberra to be delivered to Kevin Hogan, MP for Page.

The movement has seven named, non-aligned administrators from different areas of the country and hundreds of coordinators and volunteers, all of whom are from various backgrounds and all walks of life.

March in March says policy seems designed to advantage big business and the wealthy, while projects to assist the poor and the disadvantaged are hastily dismantled.

It also protests the lack of any serious attempt to combat climate change, and areas of precious environment have been sacrificed for the sake of big business profit.

The march is a call for decency, accountability and transparency from and within the Australian Government, regardless of which party happens to be governing.

"Australia's international reputation has suffered terribly because of our populist and cruel actions against asylum-seekers," said one of the national administrators, Tim Jones.

"Brutalising these people comes at a great cost because we are also brutalising ourselves."

March in March will not restrict the collective goal to a limited list or set of concerns, but instead encourages supporters to march for the issues important to them under the collective sentiment of "Australians united for a better Government".

"This government, if I can call it that, is nothing more than an ideological wrecking ball, with the scruples of looters in a war zone," said Craig Batty, another administrator. "Speak out against them, while you still can."

With momentum building, the organisers believe they have tapped into a real desire among voters to stand up and be heard.

The more-than 27,000 people who follow the March in March Australia Facebook page is comprised of people from all sides of politics; this includes the many who voted for the Coalition.

March in March has set up a system for supporters to send photos of themselves holding a sign with the issue(s) that matter most to them. They share the theme, "Not in my name, Mr. Abbott!"

The gallery "goes to show how grassroots we really are. We're ordinary citizens with absolutely no political party or organisation influence," said administrator Shaun Minahan.

The group says people will be marching as one in hopes of giving Australia a voice beyond the ballot-box. Participation by any and all peaceful supporters of the cause is encouraged.

NBN towers proposal raises concerns



NBN Co. is proceeding with plans to construct two 30-metre towers near Nimbin village.

Its stated intention is "to provide fast and reliable high-speed broadband services to the community", using a fixed wireless radio transmission system, rather than optical fibre.

Community concern over the construction of an emergency services tower in 2009 saw the tower subsequently dismantled.

A stakeholder meeting was held on 25th February, conducted by Tony Gibbs from NBN Co and Jacqueline Crompton from the planning team Visionstream, regarding the proposal to site a fixed wireless base station on rural land to the east of the village.

This followed two consultative public meetings in late 2013.

Some 20 people attended the meeting which, despite being called specifically about the proposed eastern tower on an Anderson Road property, also attracted residents living closer to the other planned tower location, whose input was welcomed by the representatives.

The meeting was told that the rural development would be a Low Impact Facility, which did not require planning approval from Lismore Council. However, the second tower planned for village-zoned land near the Showgrounds was the subject of a council DA, with a public consultation period ending on 5th March.

In a free-flowing interchange, tradespeople spoke of the need for high-speed broadband, citing connectivity issues and congestion in the current Telstra broadband service, and welcomed the prospect of more competition for broadband services in rural areas.

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