



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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GREENS CLAIM VICTORY

Regardless of see-saw Lismore outcome, Greens claim historic swings against Nationals



All smiles (clockwise from above): Adam Guise with ALP candidate Isaac Smith; with Lismore electorate farmers; with Lock the Gate's Ian Gaillard; celebrations at the Greens election night party; successful Greens candidates John Kaye (Upper House) and Tamara Smith (Ballina).

The Greens have won three Lower House seats — local solicitor and teacher Tamara Smith is the new member for Ballina, as well as Newtown and Balmain — and our own seat, Lismore, is still too close to call as recounting continues. Approximately 75% of voters at the Nimbin booth voted for Greens candidate, Adam Guise.

In a nail biting, see-saw vote count for the seat of Lismore, a fatigued but excited team of Greens supporters were elated on election night, when ABC's Antony Green called the seat as a safe Green gain. Adam Guise was, however, reserved and humble in his words to the assembled and awestruck crowd.

"This is an historic result in the history of Australian politics and comes off the back of a people-powered, grassroots campaign across the North Coast. While the results in Lismore are not yet certain, people clearly want change and a new way of doing politics. The community has been absolutely clear; coal seam gas has no future in NSW," Mr Guise said.

The Nationals incumbent, Thomas George, has since clawed back a sizeable vote from pre-poll, postal and online votes and, despite a 24% swing against the Nationals, as we go to press the outcome is still unclear, but could be decided by a mere handful of votes. Thomas

George made a last minute stab at promising to buy back the PEL 445 exploration licence, and Labor's Isaac Smith ran an anti-CSG campaign but failed to outpoll the Greens.

"I welcome the commitments of both Labor and the Nationals to a Gasfield Free Northern Rivers and I will not rest until coal seam gas licenses are cancelled across the region," Adam said.

The Greens have held their Upper House seats and Dr John Kaye and Mehreen Faruqi will be comfortably returned to Parliament, with a possibility of a third seat.

"This is a victory for every Greens supporter and for progressive politics. We have shown that a party can stand up to vested interests and still win Lower House seats," Dr Kaye said.

"Every Green can be proud of the principled stand we took on issues like TAFE, coal seam gas and the mining industry, transport, marriage equality, rent control and secular public schools.

"We will continue to campaign in every community to counter the privatisation and anti-environment agenda of the Baird-Grant government. We will work to empower communities and build momentum towards the 2016 federal election," he said.

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